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on the Go

Apple's Latest iBook
Get Acquainted on Page 20

FREE
CD Inside
See Pg. 9

Create Exciting Videos

5 Top Picks to Get You Moving

The Hottest Tips

Master RAM, Adapt Your
Old Devices, and More

Office 2001: Entourage

New App Packs Extraordinary Power



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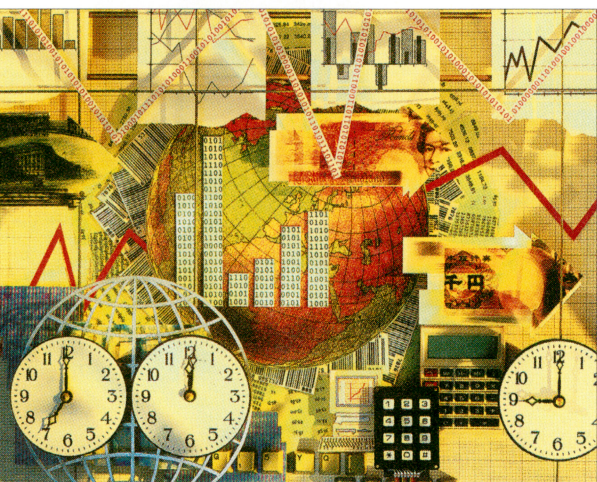
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Photographer: Peter Belanger
Zappy Electric Scooter courtesy of zapworld.com
Visit zapworld.com for more information



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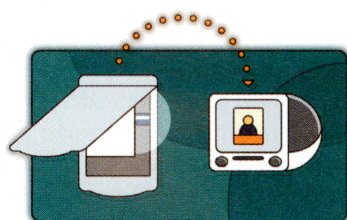
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- ★★★★ Return of the Incredible
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Your Family

- ★★★★ I Clifford Thinking Adventures
- ★★★★ I The Complete National
Geographic – 111 Years
- ★★ I LEGO My Style Kindergarten

Rating System

- ★★★★ **Mac-nificent.** You gotta get
it. No flaws.
- ★★★★ **Excellent.** Recommended
even if it has a minor flaw
or two.
- ★★★ **Average.** Despite problems,
still a worthwhile product.
- ★★ **Below Average.** Has
serious flaws that limit its
usefulness or fun.
- ★ **Poor.** Avoid this product at
all costs.

Happy New Year — It's Your Turn to Talk

Like many of you, at the end of the year we sit back and take a look at what we've accomplished over the past twelve months.

We look at what worked and what didn't, what we'd like to take with us into the New Year, and what we'd prefer to leave behind.

As a group, you've told me loud and clear that you can't get enough tips, solutions, and how-to articles, and that's what you'll get from us this year. We've moved the Tips & Tricks portion of our Back to Basics department to the front of the magazine, we've made the Mac Workshop a permanent addition to the mix, and we've sprinkled tips, advice, and shortcuts throughout all of our departments and features.

To tailor all of this as closely as possible to your needs, we encourage your continued active participation and input. Got a great tip you'd like to share?

Send it to

Tips@MacHome.com. A unique solution? Solutions@MacHome.com.

Projects: Is there something you'd like to do with your Mac, but can't quite figure out how? Or do you have a project that you think fellow readers might be interested in? Send it to **MacWorkshop@MacHome.com.**

I've got a lot of questions for you, also. This is the time of year that we launch our annual readership study and the information we gather from this survey is used in many different ways — first and foremost, it helps us plan the magazine. You are our customer, and we need to know a lot about you in order to

deliver the best possible magazine. I also summarize and share this information with many of the developers and publishers in our industry, and many of them take it into consideration when developing products, packaging, features, and advertising. Please set aside a few minutes to fill out the survey located at **www.MacHome.com/2001survey.**

In store for you this month: We take a close look at Apple's new iBook on page 20; we show you how to automate some of your own New Year's resolutions on page 48; and we've reviewed and rated 19 new pieces of software and hardware in our YourOffice, Your Family, and Entertainment departments. There's an in-depth look at Microsoft's new Entourage on page 14, and a great piece on alternative browsers on page 42. Let us know what you think of it at **www.MacHome.com/janfeedback.**

Enjoy!



Susan Ford
Publisher

P.S. If you're going to be anywhere near San Francisco in early January, make plans to stop by the Macworld Expo; we'll be in booth 4040, and exhibits are open January 9 – 12. Details can be found at **www.macworldexpo.com.**

President

James Capparell, jcap@machome.com

Publisher

Susan Ford, susan@machome.com

Art Director

Joy Jacob Sheldon, joy@machome.com

Editorial

Senior Editor, Special Projects

Zack Stern, zack@machome.com

News Editor Jackie Dove, jackie@machome.com

Reviews Editor Ross Tibbits, ross@machome.com

Associate Editor, Carolyn Blackburn,
carolyn@machome.com

Copy Editor, Todd Edelman, todd@machome.com

Editor at Large Chris McVeigh, chris@machome.com

Contributing Writers Jeff Battersby, Helen Bradley,
Andy Ihnatko, Art Jones, John Lee, Cathy Parise,
Gene Steinberg

Circulation

Newsstand Consultant Angelo Gandino

Circulation Manager Christine Camerota

Advertising

Regional Manager

Steve McMahan, steve@machome.com
415-957-1911, ext. 18

Shopper Sections

Advertising Sales Manager

Steve Gaynes, sgaynes@machome.com
415-957-1911, ext. 38

Operations

Business Manager

Lorene Kaatz, lkaatz@iname.com

Webmaster/Network Administrator

Dan Lavie, dan@machome.com

Office Administrator

Christina Davis, christina@machome.com

MacHome Interactive

www.machome.com

Hot Tips/CD-ROM Editor

Pat St.-Arnaud, pat@machome.com

Subscribe: www.machome.com/hottips

Sales & Marketing

Susan Ford, susan@machome.com

MacHome Software Center

Joel Mueller

Reprints

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General Offices

703 Market Street, Suite 535, San Francisco, CA 94103
Telephone: 415-957-1911; Internet: www.machome.com

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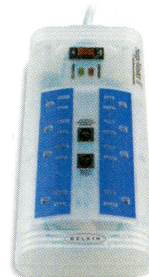
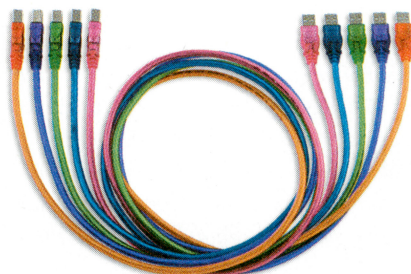


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Better than Dewey Decimals

Hi — Love your magazine! I save every issue and am always referring back to them. The only problem is that they're beginning to pile up and it's getting hard to find what I'm looking for. An annual index would be really helpful. Does this exist somewhere?

Thanks -

HT

To make your CDs more useful, why not start a troubleshooting and tips section, and once a year insert an index to the section? That way the CDs would be more useful, especially to amateurs and home users like me. Also that way you wouldn't have to repeat articles. A user could build up a library of information. Useful information on software and hardware might also be included. I have a laser printer now, but in the future I would like to get a color inkjet printer. Information as to quality, price, compatibility, etc. would be handy to have when I am ready to purchase.

Tom Kashiwabara

🐞 *Thanks for the thoughts. Look for a CD catalog in the near future, and more of your ideas should be adopted later on. Even now, you can search more than 1,000 of our reviews online and browse our past feature articles. Visit www.machome.com/reviews and www.machome.com/features/featureshome.html.*

Compress Best

I was just reading a letter in your magazine from a reader who wanted to know about software for compressing JPEGs. You suggested that for compression needs Aladdin's Stuffit is the best.

True, but not for JPEGs. In fact, compressing a JPEG with Stuffit can actually make it bigger! The best software for

making small JPEG files for the Web is definitely Box Top Software's ProJPEG (<http://www.boxtopsoft.com/pj.html>). This plug-in for Photoshop beats Photoshop hands down in making tiny images of great quality.

Quicktime Pro also does a decent job, and can export your images as JPEG or PNG.

Also, I have a small tip. Many times, I have read where people change resolutions, and a folder that had opened on-screen at a higher resolution opens off the desktop and out of view at a lower resolution. A simple fix is to create a new folder on your desktop, and drag it over the folder that opens off screen. The folder will now open right below the mouse. You can throw the new folder away at your leisure.

Eric Ridvan Uner

🐞 *True on both counts. Perfect JPEG compression is a finicky beast, but you've given some good options. And to find folders that open off-screen, you can also try a "click-and-a-half." Double-click on the folder, but don't release the mouse on the second click. Your cursor turns into a magnifying glass that can drill deep into the core of your nested folders. We love to get tips; if you have something to contribute, send it to letters@machome.com.*

But Apple would Excommunicate Me?

Is it possible to upgrade the hard drive in an iBook? I have the 3GB model and would like to upgrade to at least a 6GB drive. Is this a job for a tech or is it something a 'power user' can do?

Ray Dubois

🐞 *This hack is too difficult for even a Power User. Only a certified technician should be messing that deep in your iBook's innards. Even then, Apple will void your warranty if your iBook is upgraded in this manner, but this is moot if your iBook has*



outlasted its year-long guarantee. The hard drives in iBooks are standard laptop parts, and our local CompUSA will swap one in for a \$140 installation fee (it may take a few calls and questions, but your local repair shop should be able to do it too). You'll also need to provide a laptop hard drive: about \$200 for a 12GB model from www.thechipmerchant.com. So a relative increase of 9GB will cost about \$340 and several days without your iBook. You should also consider an external drive — VST Technologies www.vsttech.com, and LaCie www.lacie.com can sell you full-sized (think hardcover dictionary) models in the range of 20GB for \$200. Their compact (think stacked checkbooks) models are going to cost about the same amount, 10GB for \$380, as replacing your current drive. The choice comes to price versus portability. Good luck.

A Magazine of Your Own

I have on hand a copy of your journal. I am disappointed as a novice iMac user in that there is such little content in it designed for me. Do you know what percent of iMac owners are novices? There must be very few, if your journal content is a fair measure.

Patrick Groff

🐞 *For a magazine geared more specifically to novices, try the iMac Buyer's Guide, a cousin of MacHome. Apple has said that about 29 percent of iMac buyers are first-time computer users.*

Dig at the X

Please advise me on buying the new operating system, Mac OS X. I have a beige G3 tower and have 224 MB RAM. I am currently running Mac OS 8.6. Should I buy Mac OS 9 to install first, or can I install Mac OS X directly over 8.6?

James Thompson

Mac OS X isn't a new operating system, yet — it's newer than new. What you could buy right now is Mac OS X Public Beta, and that means that it'll have bugs, and it's not complete. For your current, "classic" applications to function properly, you'll first need Mac OS 9.0.4, which isn't included in Mac OS X Beta. We anticipate that these two products will be rolled together when Mac OS X is released in 2001. For more information on Mac OS X Public Beta, see our feature article in this issue.

Tune In

It was with interest I opened up to your article (MHJ November 2000) about recording an LP to CD. I have been doing this for a while, and I appreciate MacHome's low end approach to things. So I thought I would find out a new current way rather than my method. Alas, that is not what I found. Instead you say to use Adaptec Jam, Well my version of Jam, 2.6, does not support recording from an LP.

Chandler Briggs

We should have been more specific. Try Peak LE — it is bundled with Jam. You should be able to record and tweak files, and then burn them with Jam.

Unreadable Words

I am on an e-mail list on which there are often word-processing attachments from people with PCs. Many of those attachments come as .doc files. With my Mac and AppleWorks 5, I cannot convert these to a format readable on my computer. What is an affordable solution, other than buying MS Word?

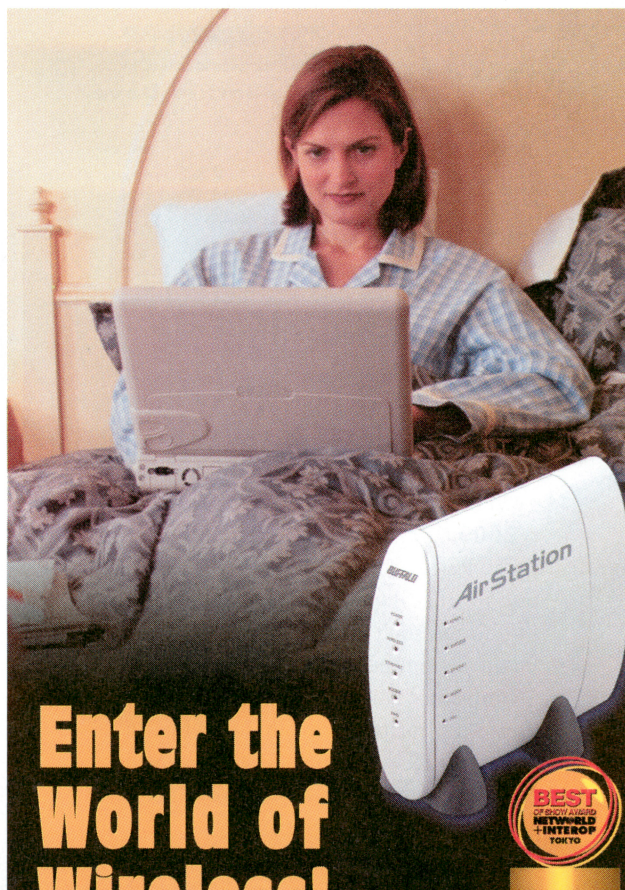
Charles Fishman

“.doc” names belong to Microsoft Word, and Word is a great cross-platform solution because the same files open on Macs and PCs with no translation. Without Word, for \$99 you can get MacLinkPlus Deluxe (reviewed in this issue) from Dataviz (www.dataviz.com) to convert files to AppleWorks or nearly any other application. **MHJ**

write to us...

Please write us with your comments! All letters are assumed intended for publication and may be edited. You can reach us by snail mail at: 703 Market Street, Suite 535, San Francisco, CA 94103, or by email:

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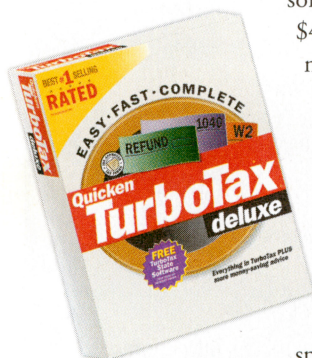
Do your Taxes — Quick!

It may be a tad early, but if you're the type with taxes on your mind, you might think about **Quicken TurboTax Deluxe 2000**. Intuit has introduced an Automated Tax Return (ATR) feature into TurboTax (\$50) that imports tax information from Quicken such as wages, interest, dividends, and stock transactions from participating companies, and enters that information into the correct forms in TurboTax. If you use ATR for your 2000 tax return, Intuit promises it will slash your tax preparation time significantly.

Getting ready for next year? Have a look at Quicken 2001 Deluxe for the Mac, the new version of Intuit's personal finance software for \$40 (with rebate). The new version helps you better manage those vital areas of your finances such as banking, investing, taxes, planning, loans, insurance, spending, and saving.

The new version features proactive missed bill reminders to find past repeated bills, and can alert you when those bills are due. It also features global find and replace, and automatic software update notifications.

Intuit, 800-446-8848, www.quicken2000.com

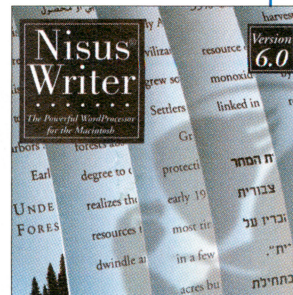


Word Alternative

We know everyone — yes, everyone — uses Microsoft Word. Except those who don't. As an alternative, Nisus has come out with version 6 of its multilingual word processor, Nisus Writer for \$100.

Nisus Writer 6, besides updating the program's support for new Apple technologies, features a text analyzer for use as an indexing tool, support for IBM's ViaVoice dictation software, import of graphics via QuickTime, zoom, grammar checker, and more.

Nisus Software, 800-890-3030, www.nisus.com



Share n' Share Alike

If you're working in a small office or home office, you know the frustration of trying to link up disparate computers and operating systems. Enter Thursby with **MacSOHO**, a file sharing package that lets you share graphic and text files between Macs and Windows-based PCs on a Local Area Network (LAN). MacSOHO, for \$99, uses a protocol that won't interfere with your Internet service, and which is already available on the PC side. After installation, just access other computers through the Browse window.

Thursby Software Systems

817-478-5070, www.thursby.com



Special Effects!

Do you work with Adobe After Effects? **Cycore's Cult Effects 1.5**, for \$399, is now available. If you work in multimedia, film, TV, or the Web, this effects program is designed to give you enhanced special effects capabilities with 27 separate plug-ins created specifically for After Effects. The bundle includes CE Paint, a vector-based filter for painting. Another plug-in creates fractal noise maps, radial shadows, roughened edges, and more. You can purchase individual filters separately, ranging in price from \$9 to \$169.

Cycore, 877-529-2673, www.cycore.com

What do you think?

Write us a quick note and tell us what you think of this month's issue! Visit us at:

www.machome.com/janfeedback

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www.srslabs.com

QuickTime 5 Preview

Apple has released a public preview of **QuickTime 5 and QuickTime Streaming Server 3**, Apple's multimedia software that lets you create as well as see and hear streaming audio and video on the Net.

The new QuickTime features an updated media player with a new QuickTime TV (QTV) network channel display and new audio controls, a new component downloader for adding plug-ins, and support for Macromedia Flash 4, Cubic VR (virtual reality), and Shoutcast.

QuickTime 5 and its companion, Streaming Server 3, feature "Skip Protection," which is designed to eliminate media "skipping," or dropping frames, while streaming. Due out in early 2001, previews are available now at www.apple.com/quicktime and www.apple.com/quicktime/servers.

Apple, 800-538-9696, www.apple.com

Grab Those Images

If you're a designer, you know how hard it can be to find exactly the right image for your project. And that's where **image grabber 2** comes in. This software program lets art directors, graphic designers, and photo researchers (not to mention students who need images for their homework assignments!) search dozens of stock agencies at the same time and receive thousands of unwatermarked images in seconds, the company says.

The new version, for \$50, sports a new interface letting you search password protected sites with a current user name and password. It also gives you 15 additional image agencies to choose from and lets you save to and search your own hard drive. **image grabber 2** is also a plug-in for Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, Macromedia Dreamweaver and Freehand, and Quark XPress, allowing you to access images while inside the programs.

Random Eye Technologies, 800-726-4126
www.randomeye.com

Get the Message

Are you the kind who loves instant messaging and chat? You might have a look at **Odigo Messenger 1.2**. With this instant messaging program, you get messaging alerts, buddy lists, visibility filters, and more. This software also gives you a Website popularity directory and the ability to chat and otherwise communicate with other Odigo users surfing the same Websites. It's free and available for download at www.odigo.com/mac.

Odigo, 212-809-2002, www.odigo.com

Wearing (iMac) Colors

So you've got one of those brand new iMacs in those new, uh, urban type colors, and suddenly you need furniture to match. Anthro sympathizes with your aesthetic conundrum, and in response, has introduced a new line of **Anthro iCarts in Ruby, Sage, Indigo, and Graphite**. And wait!

There's more! You can mix and match accessories and color schemes, as Anthro now makes a cup holder, accessory shelf, keyboard caddy, document tray,

and more. The iCarts come in a short model with one shelf for \$169 or a tall version with two shelves (for your printer, scanner, etc.) for \$209. Accessories range from \$15 to \$20 for the document tray, cup holder, and accessory shelf. The keyboard caddy is \$75.

Anthro Corporation, 800-325-3841, www.anthro.com



CD-RW From the SCSI Point of View



If you're looking for an internal CD-RW drive with an Ultra SCSI interface (SCSI-3 to be exact), have a look at the internal **PlexWriter 12/10/32S**. This 5.25-inch internal unit, for \$379, gives you 12X write, 10X rewrite, and 32X max-

imum playback speeds. Use it to write a 650MB CD-ROM in just over seven minutes. It includes a data buffer capacity of 4MB and supports a variety of writing modes including track-at-once, disc-at-once, session-at-once, multisession, and more. This drive is compatible with Toast 4.1.1, but it's not bundled with the software.

Plextor, 800-886-3935, www.plextor.com

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Big Things, Small Packages

Delkin Devices announced an increase to 256MB in the capacity of its **eFilm CompactFlash** memory cards, and a boost to 448MB for its CompactFlash Type II cards. These cards, which are priced at \$774 and \$1,396, are designed to store high-resolution images taken with your megapixel digital cameras, and for other devices.

If you're looking for CompactFlash cards, also check out Viking Components, which has 192MB and 256MB CompactFlash cards to use in digital cameras, MP3 players, and more, for \$399 and \$599 respectively.

Delkin Devices, 800-637-8087, www.delkin.com

Viking Components, 800-338-2361, www.vikingcomponents.com



FireWire Fun

Do you have a hankering for digital video (as so many seem to these days)? Are you considering a new FireWire external hard drive to store audio/video files? Would you like to add FireWire to your non-FireWire Mac G3 or older G3 PowerBook? Have a look at Western Digital's FireWire products which include a **FireWire PCI Adapter** (\$49) to give your G3 that high-speed interface, or a **FireWire CardBus PC Card** (\$99) to bestow FireWire on your older PowerBook G3. But hey, if you're in the market for a FireWire hard drive, you have your choice of 30GB (\$249) and 45GB (\$279) models. Both come with a six-foot cable, AC adapter, and digital video editing software.

Western Digital, 800-275-4932, www.westerndigital.com



G4 on the Rise

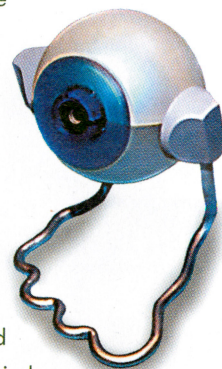
Does your Power Mac generate too much heat? Gather too much dust? Now there's a solution to this problem with the **Contour G-Riser**. This accessory is specifically designed for G3 and G4 towers that sit mostly on the floor under your desk. Such units can ingest dust, dirt, and foreign objects through the base of the system through the cooling fan. The G-Riser, for \$25, raises your tower some four inches above the floor (or whatever surface it's on) so you can dust or vacuum underneath it, plus there's the extra added benefit of cooler operation for cooler operation and more reliable and long-lasting performance.

Contour Design, 800-462-6678, www.contourdesign.com



FireWire Cam

If you are setting up video teleconferencing, desktop video, home security monitoring, or video chat, think FireWire. This interface has hit the desktop video camera market in the form of **iBOT**, Orange Micro's FireWire Desktop Video Camera and Web cam. It lets you display or capture full-sized video (640 x 480 pixel



resolution) at 30 frames per second. The standard model, for \$119, is designed for those who already have a microphone. For those who don't, the pro version is \$149, which includes the microphone and additional software.

Orange Micro, 714-779-2772

www.orangemicro.com

Image Improvement

If you work with digital images, you know they vary in quality, and sometimes you need an image editor to assist in correcting the flaws. QBeo has come out with version 2 of **PhotoGenetics** image enhancement software, with changes it says makes the software quicker and more intuitive.

The software, for \$30, gives you immediate application of your enhancements, real-time previewing, and automatic color shift correction. You can see what your changes will look like before applying them. The new version makes it easier to name, manage, and edit files, and simplifies printing as well.

QBeo, 800-689-0639, www.qbeo.com

More Point n' Shoots

If you're brand new to digital photography — or photography in general — Hewlett Packard has unveiled a pair of point-and-shoot cameras. The **PhotoSmart 215**, for \$199, gives you a 1.3 megapixel resolution, 2X digital zoom, and a 1.8-inch color LCD for preview and post view of your photos. It is also equipped with auto flash, auto focus, auto exposure, and a self-timer. The camera also ships with a 4MB CompactFlash memory card, USB cable, and ArcSoft graphic software to edit your pictures.



The **PhotoSmart 315** is a 2.1 megapixel camera that gives you a 2.5X digital zoom and a 1.8-inch color LCD to view your pictures. This USB point and shoot for \$299 is fully automatic and ships with an 8MB CompactFlash card.

Hewlett-Packard, 800-752-0900, www.hp.com

Plug-In Power

If you're an expert with Adobe Illustrator, get ready for a brand new set of plug-ins. Sapphire Innovations has announced the **Sapphire Pack 2**, a set of nine plug-ins for Illustrator 8 and 9.

The new plug-ins include Background, which lets you create instant backgrounds from any selected path, scale, fill, rotate, and other background groupings. Bloater lets you take any selected paths and distort, or create 3D like effects, within Illustrator. Circled is a pattern generator based around a circle that lets you angle the paths, rotate, and apply different patterns.

The package also includes: Cornerpoint, letting you change anchor points; Duplicator, a duplication tool; Negative Times for inverse color effects; Polygonville to create numerous types of polygons; and more.

Sapphire Innovations, www.sapphire-innovations.com

Itsy Bitsy, Teenie Reader

If you're on vacation or a business trip and you need to download your digital images now, Delkin has released a new series of **eFilm Pocket Readers**. These reader/writers — about the size of a keychain ornament — have a USB connector so you can plug it into your desktop or laptop USB port. Three models are available: A CompactFlash Pocket Reader (\$50) for accessing CF Type I and II and IBM Microdrive memory cards; SmartMedia Pocket Reader, and an MMC/SD Pocket Reader that can access both a seven-pin MultiMediaCard and a



nine-pin Secure Digital Memory card. Once the reader (and card) is attached to the USB port, your Mac will recognize it as another hard drive, letting you transfer files. Prices for the latter two readers were not available at press time.

Delkin Devices, 800-637-8087, www.delkin.com

Got a Stick?

Sony Memory Stick, that is? If so, Epson has announced the **Stylus Photo 875DCS** color inkjet printer with a built-in digital PCMCIA card reader and Memory Stick adapter. This printer, for \$349, is compatible with any Memory Stick product,



including cameras and camcorders. This USB printer is a six-color model

with a 1,440 x 720 dpi resolution, and includes software that allows you to download files from a Memory Stick card. The printer comes with a roll paper holder to feed the paper through the printer to produce marginless snapshots and panoramas. The Stylus 875DCS can also handle a variety of paper sizes including letter, legal, and panorama.

Epson, 800-463-7766, www.epson.com

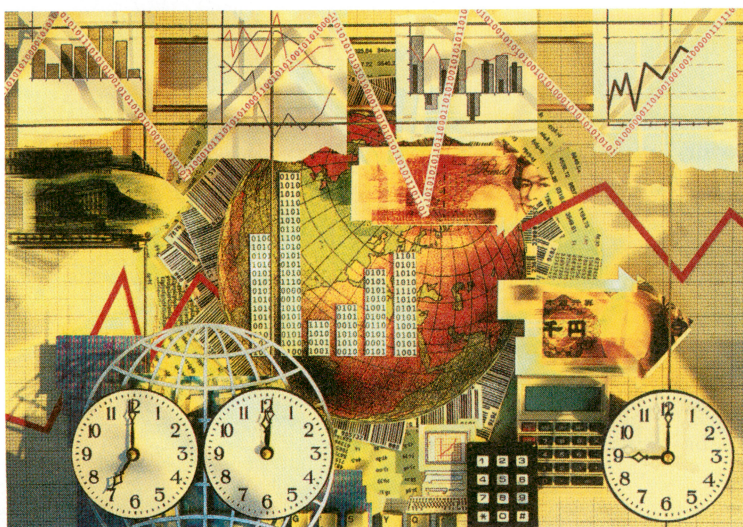
ACT Now!

Power On Software has released a customized version of its **Now Up-to-Date Contact manager** for ACT! Mac customers for a \$40 upgrade price. Interact Commerce, which has discontinued the sale of ACT!, has assisted Power On in creating a custom version of the software as well as a one-step conversion process that will let you integrate ACT! data into Now Up-to Date & Contact. Power On Software, 800-344-9160 www.poweronsw.com

Why Entourage?

Interface with the world **using this newest addition to Office 2001**

By
Zack Stern



Everybody needs an entourage. And most people need Entourage — Microsoft's new email, contact, calendar, to-do list, notepad, all-in-one genre-crushing application. This program works with the Office suite so well that you'll get some sprinklings of Entourage in your other applications.

In fact, a virtual entourage is even better than the real thing. Would a member of your posse remind you of your meetings? Could the guys that you hang with give you a client's email address in a moment's notice? Will the gang remind you to start work on your Word document newsletter every month?

Entourage isn't sold alone; if you buy Office 2001, you'll get Entourage. If you want Entourage without Office, Microsoft can't help you. Instead, this is one of the compelling reasons to upgrade your Office applications. It's a brand-new addition to Office that is as powerful as any of the other Office products.

Email Details

Email balances Entourage's premium blend of applications. You'll be able to send and receive messages from multiple email accounts using

any standard email server, except AOL. If you're on America Online, Entourage isn't an option. Like other email programs, you can automatically sort messages based on their contents, or file notes manually. These features aren't flashy, but they deliver as expected.

A couple additional features make Entourage a compelling mail application. You can now "rewrap" mail messages that have extra returns in the formatting. Sometimes text lines don't go the entire width of the page, but instead break at random. Push Rewrap, and they fall back into place. Also, after an unfortunate crash, you'll discover that Entourage automatically saves much of what you had written, and opens it on re-launch. Now that's service.

Make Contact

The Address Book expertly maintains your contacts. You can store more information than you'll know what to do with, including addresses, companies, birthdays, job titles, nick names, and Website URLs. You can enter multiple phone numbers and email addresses. You can even add a picture. And if you still need more space, Entourage includes many customizable fields for all of your categorical needs.

But the Address Book's features don't stop with basic, been-done-before items. How about sending your browser to find a map of a contact's location by

clicking a pull-down menu? Directions are as simple as a single click.

The Address Book is most useful when creating email. When you're typing an email address into a new message, Entourage automatically matches your keystrokes with the first and last names, and email addresses of your contacts.

Type "A," and a pop-up menu suggests all of your Andrews, Angies, Amys, Aarons, and anyone that begins with an "A." Narrow down the list with a few more letters, and select from the remaining names. Suppose you type "And," and you frequently send notes to Andrew but not Andy. Entourage will first suggest Andrew because you sent him a message most recently. And that isn't all. Suppose you haven't added contacts; Entourage will still remember your last 150 incoming and outgoing names and email addresses even if they aren't in the Address Book.

The Address Book appears in other Office applications, too. Begin typing a name in Word, and its ending will be suggested. Or select contact information from a pull-down menu. Addressing letters and dealing with many people is simple.

Keep Dates

The Calendar tightly integrates dates with the rest of Entourage. Like the other base components, it's hard to say when the Calendar ends and the rest of Entourage begins. At first, the Calendar is standard fare. Create appointments, reoccurring events, and notes like you would in any date book program. But you'll soon spot differences.

The biggest feature is being able to invite people to appointments. Create an event by double-clicking on its day. Enter a title, location information, and the time. Choose from extras like alarm reminders, and add complete information about the meeting in the text field. Then click the Invite button. The familiar email address field will appear, and you can send notice of your meeting to your contacts.

The people who receive your invitation will be able to see the same information, and they'll be able to accept, tentatively accept, or decline your invitation. Then that status will be forwarded back to you. Now, if your friends or colleagues

can make it, this meeting will automatically appear in their calendars. And if you look at your original calendar meeting, you can check the status of everyone that you invited. Innovative functions like this are why we love our Macs.

If you want to share your calendar information, Entourage will help. Simply export an HTML calendar that will display in any web browser. Email it to friends, or host it on your Website.

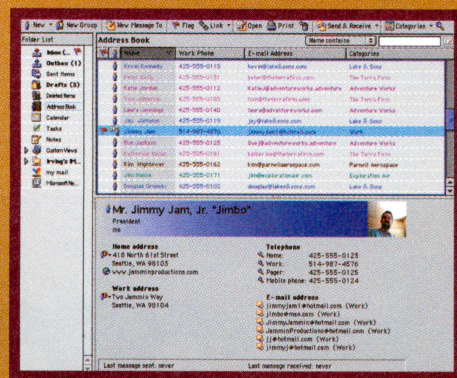
Uncommon Additions

More great features make Entourage the premier contact, calendar, and email application. One favorite function is support for vCards, where you can send and receive complete contact information. In Address Book, select a contact, then choose Forward as vCard from the Contact menu. This menu will create a new email message that has a vCard attachment of just a couple of kilobytes. Your friend who receives this message can save the vCard in Entourage as a part of the Address Book.

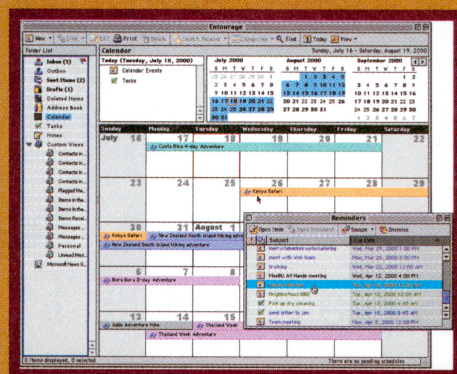
Entourage hopes to separate Palm PDA users from their Palm Desktop software. Tight integration with the calendar, note pad, to-do list, and contact information makes it successful. Update your Palm's calendar, or other main applications on the road, and Entourage will record the changes when you return. Any notes that you make on your computer can be sent to your Palm with a Hot Sync.

Like an infomercial, the feature list keeps going. First, the text editing capabilities, dictionary, and AutoCorrect components of Word have made it to Entourage. And Assistants are available in Entourage. Like Word, you can ask questions in plain language, and they will return helpful information. And Flag for Followup, based in Entourage, works in any of your Office applications. With this, you can mark documents or email messages with a timed reminder to return to them. If you need some more information before you can finish your Word file, set it to remind you to return in a few days. These flags appear as to-do items in your Entourage calendar.

For all that there is to like about Entourage, we did manage to unearth a



Keep a photo with your contacts so you don't get that highlight-deer look when you meet again.



Banners aren't just for Webpages; track multiple-day events in the calendar.

few problems. With the great Palm integration, you'd expect to be able to read and create email messages on the road, but that's not possible. And as expected with a new application, there are a few bugs, such as the backup reference calendar losing track of the date.

In what could have been a bloated application, Microsoft delicately balanced email, contact, and calendar functions in an intuitive Entourage. The combination of these functions lets Microsoft innovate in new ways. And while it's not a real entourage — following you around, complimenting you, watching your back — Microsoft Entourage is just as useful. **MHJ**

rating ★★★★★

Microsoft Entourage 2001
www.microsoft.com/mac
800-426-9400
Microsoft Office 2001: \$499
Office 2001 upgrade: \$299

Great combination of contact, email, and calendar; useful new features

Palm support should work with email, isolated bugs

Home. movie

Special Effects for Video



If you've got an iMac DV or a G4 Cube, then you've already got iMovie. And if you've got a DV camcorder, then you may even have tried your hand with video editing. iMovie is great, and iMovie 2 is even better, but there's a lot more to the Mac video scene, and you don't have to shell out the big bucks to be a part of it.

Sure, Apple's Final Cut Pro and Adobe's After Effects are the be-all and end-all of Mac video editing and special effects. But these are pro-level tools that will set you back near \$1,000 each. They'll also take a fair bit of learning time, so these programs aren't the best complements to iMovie.

We hunted around for the latest Mac video tricksters under \$300 and came up with a mixed bag of tools. Buena Software and Boris FX make inexpensive plug-in effects and transitions packages (think fades and wipes on steroids). Buena's Effects Packs work with programs such as QuickTime Player Pro, Canon Video, Totally Hip's LiveStage Pro and yes, Final Cut Pro. BorisFX's Boris Factory plugs into Adobe Premiere, a movie editor that is often bundled with analog video capture cards.

Next, Studio Artist is one artistic synthesizer package that lets you make way-cool background videos, paint on top of video, and just plain experiment.

Finally, Terran's Media Cleaner EZ, while not an effects package, is an essential tool for creating the best compressed movies, for delivery over the Web or on CD-ROM.

The Editors

While the first version of iMovie left users begging for more, especially in the special effects and titling areas, iMovie 2 (Reviewed November, 2000) answers the critics and delivers happy endings (www.apple.com/imovie).

This \$50 program still has a few rough spots, but continuity is much improved — it's simply the best consumer-level DV editor for the Mac or PC. However, it still can't import non-DV clips, or take advantage of QuickTime special effects — both serious drawbacks that require some users to turn to a second program such as QuickTime Player Pro or Media Cleaner EZ (or even Canon Video—see below), in order to use non-DV video in their productions.

Canon makes excellent DV cam-

corders and has a lot of credibility with video mavens. Admirably, it decided it should offer both Mac and PC versions of video editing software, which it calls, appropriately enough, Canon Video (reviewed this issue). Unfortunately, the Mac version is a very poor port of the Windows program (which is itself basically a renamed ArcSoft Video Impression, with few changes).

This \$50 program has basic capabilities. You can import clips or capture from digital cameras, scanners, and analog camcorders with a video capture card. Then you can add transitions, titles and soundtracks, much as in iMovie, except with an amateurish interface and other limited capabilities. Canon Video also does not work with DV format video like iMovie can, although you can import DV and it will be converted. Instead of DV, Canon Video works with lower-quality and less space-hogging QuickTime, AVI, and MPEG formats.

If you need to edit video from these types of sources (such as most clip video and WebCam video), Canon Video can be a good adjunct to iMovie, since iMovie only works with DV files.

Canon Video is also very strong on

the transition side. There are 15 built-in effects with full control over parameters, including alpha channel composite, chroma key, wipes, and zooms.

But the biggest surprise was that since Canon Video uses the standard QuickTime export dialog, the Buena

make use of QuickTime's export movie dialog box, including QuickTime Player Pro, Final Cut Pro, Totally Hip's LiveStage Pro, Adobe Premiere, and more. Sadly, this list does not include iMovie. But you can simply export your clip from iMovie, apply the desired effect with QuickTime Player Pro (\$29), and then import it back into iMovie. A hassle, but worth it for the versatility of some of the effects and transitions.

Some Effects Packs tools include: Color Pass, which converts everything in an image to black and white with the

Installing Boris Factory is a simple matter of dragging the effects to your Premiere plug-in folder, then choosing the effects panel from the Transitions palette. Select various effects from the pop-up panel. Even preview them with animated displays.

Our favorite transitions are Particles (think meteor showers!), Shatters (breaking glass), and the full treatment of page turns, which are especially appropriate for a family video "album" that includes footage from old movies. Factory also offers valuable variations on the basic

Magic

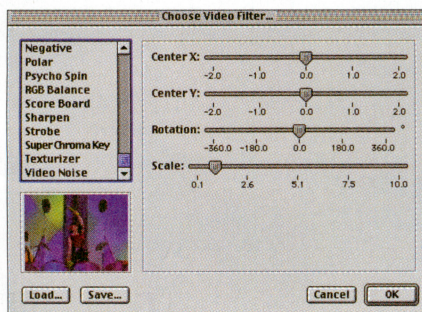
By Becky Waring

Software Effects packages (reviewed below) work with it.

You have to apply an effect over the entire movie that you are exporting, but you can then re-import the transformed clip into the storyboard for your final production (www.software.canon.com).

Buena Special Effects Packs

If you've always wanted to create MTV-style videos, check out Buena's Effects Packs, especially number 3, which



You'll have access to Buena's controls when you export a QuickTime movie.

includes powerful motion effects and composite tools (for layering video). Each pack offers 10 effects for \$30, with discounts for buying two or all three packs.

They work with video editors that

exception of one color (great for highlighting an object); Color Replace, which changes any color in a clip to another color; Texturizer, which lets you apply any image as a texture in your movie; and Fractals, which generates fractal video sort of like Kai's Power Tools does for stills. Pack 3 even includes tools that let you create your own effects.

And then there are those aforementioned motion effects in Pack 3. With motion effects, you can zoom, rotate, and move video clips in the frame over time, as well as pan around a still image. The finished clips have alpha channels, allowing them to be composited with another clip, such as a background video.

These packages were among our favorites; just drag and drop them into the System folder, and bang, they're ready to use. Also, they're incredibly inexpensive.

Boris Factory

Boris FX is perhaps the biggest name in video effects plug-ins. Its high-end packages, including 3D motion effects, were already available for editors working with Premiere and After Effects. Boris Factory is an attempt to create an effects package for novices. While the software is cross-platform, it only works with Premiere on the Mac.

dissolves, wipes, and slides, as well as very nice ripple and wave effects.

Boris Factory is an excellent entrée into the world of pro video effects, which is what Boris FX is aiming for — hoping you'll buy some of the higher-end packages. But even if you don't, the effects in this package are well worth the



Watch sample effects with Boris Factory's assembly line of different options.

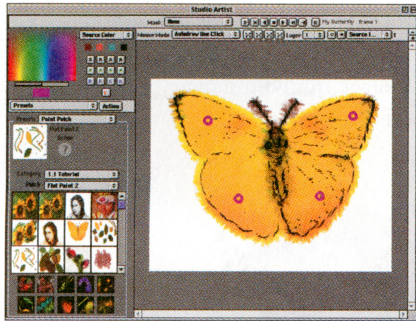
price of admission, assuming you have Adobe Premiere.

Studio Artist 1.5

Studio Artist is a delight. It manages to combine truly useful features like automated rotoscoping (painting on a movie in a desired sequence) and frame-by-frame movie editing/generation with powerful creative tools like a texture syn-

thesizer. It's mostly built for still graphics, but the video features worth considering. You can apply almost any operation you would use on a still image to a frame of a movie. Its paint recording, brushes, and action features will remind you of Corel Painter.

Due to its depth of features and complexity, getting started with Studio Artist



This Studio Artist butterfly animation could take off in many directions.

is difficult. However, an excellent tutorial is included that will bring you around to the Studio Artist way of seeing the world.

Following the tutorial on creating movies from scratch, I generated a short animation of a butterfly flapping its wings in just a few minutes. The butterfly was based on a photo, and processed with paint effects and warping tools to create the final artistic animation look.

If you like artistic, surreal programs

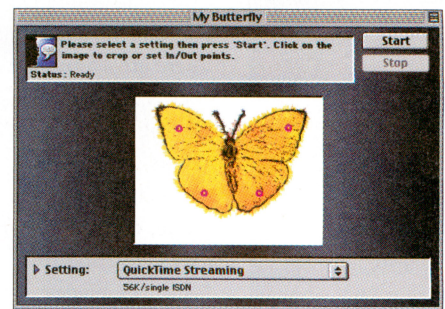
such as Corel's Painter and Bryce, you'll love Studio Artist. While it's not for everyone, due to its depth and learning curve, the creative possibilities of the program are limitless.

Media Cleaner EZ 4

Most of these packages let you export and compress your movies, but for top quality, you're going to have to call in a specialist.

After you export your video as an uncompressed file, this is where Media Cleaner comes in. This media processing tool generates QuickTime, Real, and Windows Media files (audio, video and stills) for Web streams, email, or CD-ROM productions. The most powerful feature of Media Cleaner is the Settings Wizard, which walks you right through the choices and options to create the best video for your purpose. The Wizard takes the mystery out of streaming video, and is virtually idiot-proof. It can even generate the HTML necessary to add your video to a Website.

As a test of Media Cleaner's capabilities, we compressed an animation in several ways. The original was 2.5MB. As compressed for 56K streaming with the Sorenson video codec the file was only 8KB, and as compressed with CinePak for DSL/broadband connections, it still weighed just 80KB.



Select your Media Cleaner EZ settings, then force the butterfly back into a virtual cocoon.

The two things we wished were included are MPEG output for the broadband connection and the ability to see a live preview of what your video will look like under the selected parameters. Both these features are available, along with many others (such as batch processing and multiple version output), in the professional version of Media Cleaner 5.

If you create a lot of movies with varied source material, run, don't walk, to your Web browser to order Media Cleaner. You'll wonder how you ever lived without it.

Video Power

If you've got a FireWire Mac and a DV camcorder, the most expensive part is behind you, and now it's time to start experimenting. These tools can help turn your otherwise ordinary footage into something unique. **MHJ**

Video F/X

Product	Price	Company Info.	Requirements	[Thumbs Up]	[Thumbs Down]	Rating
Buena Software Special Effects Packs 1-3	\$30 for 1 pack, \$50 for 2, \$70 for all 3	Buena Software 847-537-4629 www.buena.com	Runs on PowerMac with OS 7.0 or later	Ultrasimple to install and use, inexpensive	Doesn't work with iMovie (but that's iMovie's fault...), only works with a whole clip at a time	★★★★★
Boris Factory	\$99	Boris FX 888-772-6747 www.borisfx.com	Runs on Power Mac with OS 8.1 or later	Truly useful collection of effects, all the basics and then some, easy to use	Only works with Premiere, we wish it had some 3D effects	★★★★
Studio Artist 1.5	\$295	Synhetik Software 415-864-6582 www.synhetik.com	Runs on PowerMac with OS 8 or later	Powerful video paint rotoscoping and synthesis tools, excellent tutorial gets you started	Plethora of options takes time to learn	★★★★
Videodelic	\$249	U & I Software www.usoftware.com/ videodelic	Runs on PowerMac with OS 7.5.3 or later	Endless possibilities for generating live video effects shows	Confusing interface, especially in the Montage room	★★★★★
Media Cleaner EZ 4	\$99	Terran Interactive 800-577-3443 www.terran.com	Runs on PowerMac with OS 8.0 or later	Painlessly generates top-quality compressed video, even novices can't go wrong with the Settings Wizard	Should provide previews with your own movie, doesn't output MPEG (both these features are available in a higher-priced version, though)	★★★★★

Sin

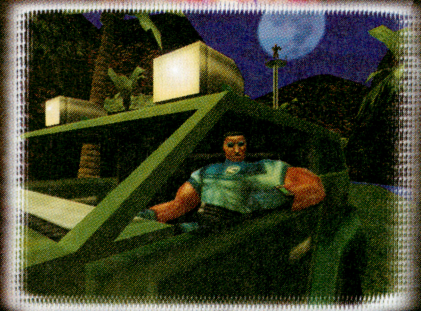
ENCOUNTER ACTION-BASED OUTCOMES

EXPLORE DIFFERENT PUZZLES AND NEW ROUTES EACH TIME YOU PLAY. ENCOUNTER NEW DANGERS AND INTELLIGENT BEINGS IN EVERY MISSION AS YOU FIGHT YOUR WAY TO THE ULTIMATE CONFRONTATION.



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INDULGE IN MULTIPLAYER SINFESTS

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There's a **crime wave** in the city of Freeport and it's linked to the unholy drug named U-4. People are disappearing, and **mutants** are taking over the streets. Sources say that **SinTEK Industries** and its lethally gorgeous CEO, Elexis Sinclair, are connected to the **madness**. As a top security professional, it's up to you, Colonel John R. Blade, to discover who or what is behind this **sinful plague**.

INCLUDES THE MISSION PACK **WAGES OF SIN™**

"FAST ACTION, BIG GUNS, AND A REALLY SEXY VILLAIN. THIS GAME IS A MUST HAVE FOR THE MAC."

Ryan S. Adams, MacGamer's Ledge



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www.macplay.com

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iBooks Cook

Apple's new **iBook SE** really hits the mark!

By **Zack Stern**

The iBook Special Edition blurs the line between the consumer and professional enough to consider purchasing one even if you had been set on a PowerBook.

This iBook comes loaded with the previously standard USB ports, a 56k modem, Ethernet, and AirPort networking. But this time you'll get FireWire and iMovie 2, a new video-out port, a DVD-ROM drive, and a bigger drive to hold your iMovie masterpieces.

What you won't get is enough RAM to use powerful applications or play top games. The iBooks ship with 64MB RAM, and we immediately upgraded to 128MB; you should do the same.

After weighing all of these features, the iBook SE makes a great educational and consumer portable, and it is even something that pro users should consider. Because it compresses all of the features into this reasonably compact package, the iBook SE is the portable to go where no iMac has gone before.

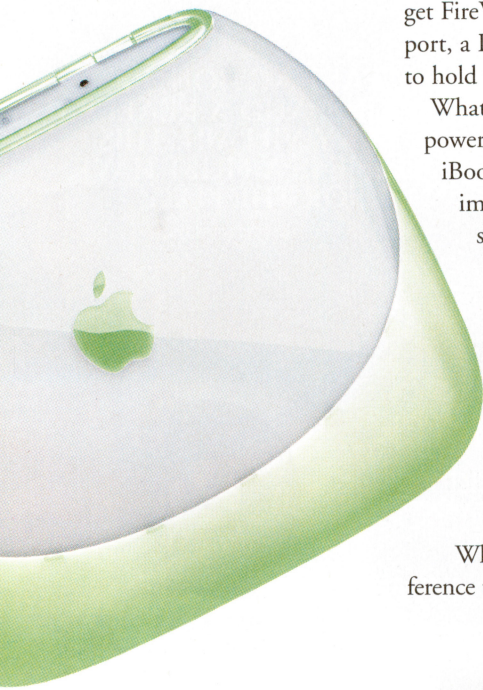
While this machine is loaded, the main difference that a pro user would have to consider is

the screen size. The iBook includes a 12.1-inch, 800x600 resolution display, and the PowerBooks use 15.1-inch, 1,024x768 displays. This means that while the iBook has enough real estate to work with one application, the PowerBooks pack more information into their screen space. (See our New Owners article this month to make the best use of your iBook screen.) But despite its size, the iBook display is bright and easy to read.

For the first time on an iBook, an included DVD-ROM drive lets you watch movies and use DVD software. Programs that used to ship on many CD-ROMs are beginning to show up on a single DVD. What better way to pass the class time is there than reading a DVD reference or watching a DVD action movie?

You'll also get a few applications to get started with your iBook. Apple includes the AppleWorks 6 word processing and productivity application, the cute Bugdom game, iMovie 2, and a few other assorted programs. This is a nice start, but it's not enough to avoid a trip to the software store.

Now you can play with FireWire for the first time on an iBook, as FireWire has become an option or standard on all of



Apple's computers. FireWire has been adopted by digital videocamera manufacturers as the choice in video to computer connectivity. If you have a DV or Digital8 camcorder, you probably already have a FireWire device. Because your footage is digital, just plug it into your iBook, and the computer can recognize your tapes. The included iMovie editing program will walk you through the basics of video production. Let the desktop video revolution begin.

But even more than video, FireWire lets you plug additional devices into your iBook. Hard drives, CD burners, and other peripherals come in USB flavors, but FireWire varieties let them communicate at faster speeds.

The iBook battery life can outlast most homecoming games; less than Apple's claim of six hours, but more than a hearty four. Located under a few screw-terminals, this battery isn't intended to be swapped for another. Instead, your iBook battery will last longer than the one in any of Apple's other portables. With a little care not to leave it on during lunch, you can last through most of your classes.

ATI's RAGE Mobility 128 video chipset drives the iBook's display, meaning that your QuickTime movies and graphics draw snappily. A great addition to the iBook, this feature is meant to work so well that you won't even notice it. And gamers will be pleased to know that with ATI's video chips and some more RAM, you can play all of today's most popular games on the road.

The iBook is defined by its design. Rounded angles and specially created plastics give it a friendly and distinct look. Thick rubber edges make this a durable notebook, but the cost is in size and weight. This industrial strength laptop is a scale-tipping 6 pounds. You could probably bang the 'Book into desks, and the desk would take most of the punishment.

The iBook SE comes in Graphite or Key Lime enclosures, and the colors look good. Graphite is a smooth, opaque gray that is similar to Apple's Graphite iMac. Key Lime is a new, bright green shade that's a few clicks short of '80s neon flair.

Speed is important, and this iBook delivers. With a 466MHz G3 processor, you'll have the horsepower to run today's top applications. Everything feels quick and light in all of the programs we tried. Searches, renders, and scrolls are iMac-fast.

The refinement of the iBook rightly gives the

Capture a Movie



All you need is a digital video camera, and with FireWire, you've got a hot editing system. The included iMovie 2 lets you simply put together great looking video with smooth edits and effects. After connecting FireWire to your camcorder and iBook,

this is how you'll capture your footage.

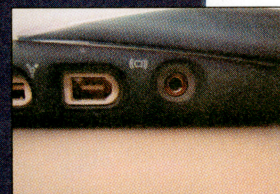
1. Push the aqua slider to the left, corresponding to "DV." You'll now see an option to import video.



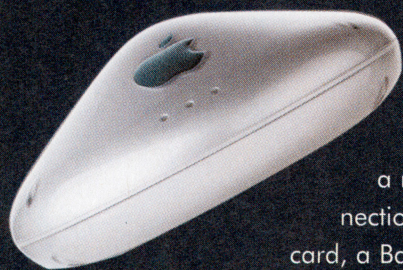
2. Start your tape rolling, then click the Import button to record footage to your computer. Push Import again to stop recording. Repeat a few times and you're ready to edit. Razor blades and tape aren't necessary.

Video Out

Want to send your videos, presentations, or games to a big monitor? Simply plug the included adapter into the iBook, and you'll use RCA cables to connect to a television. Now you can watch DVDs, play games, and give presentations on your big screen. The Monitors' Control Panel (or Control Strip) will let you choose your resolution, and the TV will mirror what is displayed on the iBook. And if you only want to plug in headphones, the same jack will accommodate you.



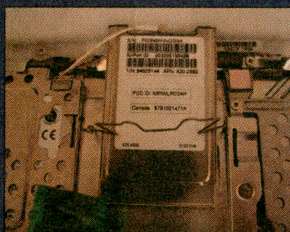
AirPort: Network Through Thin Air



Wireless networks become a reality with the simple use of Apple's AirPort. You can even share a modem or broadband Internet connection with multiple Macs. With an AirPort card, a Base Station, and a waterproofed iBook you can be surfing the 'net while you surf the waves. (if you have a beach house!)

Read your manual for the finer points of installation. With a little luck, these steps are all you'll need.

1. Install your AirPort card. First remove the battery and unplug the iBook from the power supply. Push the two keyboard tabs down, roll the keyboard back, and connect the card and antenna.
2. Plug your Base Station into your phone line or network, then configure it. Check to see that your iBook's Internet connection settings are current; these will be teleported to the Base Station.
3. Surf in style. Email while checking your snail mail, network with your neighbors, and Instant Message from your marigolds.



More Ports

You've got one USB port and one FireWire port for expansion. How do you add more than one of each device? USB works with hubs — a breakout box splits one port into several. FireWire works by daisy chain — string several FireWire components together in a line. Your video camera has one port, but your extra hard drives, CD-ROM burners, and other peripherals will have two for extra connectivity.



impression that all of the major features have been perfected. How else could Apple pay such close attention to details? The handle is perfectly integrated, and the spring-loaded design keeps the iBook closed without a latch. The LEDs even subscribe to Apple's aesthetic touch; the sleep LED visually snores, and the battery power LED glows amber when your AC connection is charging the iBook, and green when the battery is full.

With such design perfections, problems with the iBook are difficult to spot. Most complaints that we could find have a counterpart. While there is a single, small speaker, the iBook directs a wide field of sound. The laptop is large because it is heavily reinforced. You don't get enough RAM to start with, but it's an easy upgrade.

After much feature-searching and nit-picking, the biggest problem that we found is with the mouse button. Sharing the same slippery sort of plastic as Apple's optical mouse, the button retains oils and feels slick. There's something unnerving about a greasy mouse button. And the previously mentioned RAM shortage is a disappointment.

The Final Decision The iBook has personality; it's a great portable designed well enough that it hits its specific target — consumers, educators, and students — and it gives lots of reason for a professional to consider this delight. Despite its minor RAM and Trackpad flaws, it's a

great portable. The only question left is to choose Key Lime or Graphite. After you use the iBook SE as much as we have, you'll want one of each. **MHJ**

rating

iBook SE
\$1,800
Apple Computer, Inc.
www.apple.com
800-692-7753

 **Fast processor,**
FireWire, DVD, and video-out

 **Larger than the average 'book, needs RAM**



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The Mac Workshop

By Helen Bradley

Put your Mug on a Mug

Somewhere in the kiosk area of your local mall, you've probably seen people taking photos and attaching them to tee shirts or mugs "while you wait." You probably know that there's transfer paper that allows you to do this at home on fabric, but how can you do it on porcelain? One-up the guys with their fancy, mall technology, and make your own mug.

Plan your Objective



1

A photograph of you or your kids makes a great holiday gift for grandparents. For a coworker, teacher, or coach, why not put a photo of the entire team on a mug for a unique and memorable parting present? You might even put your pet's picture on a mug as a thank you gift for their Vet. Let your imagination be your guide.

Find your Image

Begin by buying the mug you'll use so you can measure the approximate size of the image you'll need to create.

Then locate an image.

If you have a digital camera, the task is as easy as lining up the subjects and taking a range of snaps so you have plenty to choose from. Download these from your camera, and select one to use. If you plan to use a regular photo you'll need to scan it into your computer.



2

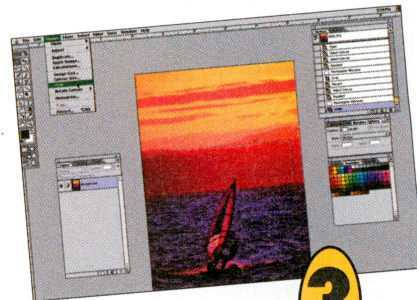
What You'll Need

1. An image in a digital format (scanned or downloaded from a camera)
2. Color inkjet printer
3. Graphics software
4. Water slide/slip decal paper
5. Mug
6. Water



Edit the Image

Open your image in your graphics software. While most photos are rectangular, you may not want to use this shape for your mug. You may also want to cut away (or crop) the unwanted edges of the photo to draw attention to your subject. Use the Selection tool in your graphics application of choice to highlight your subject, and use the cropping command to discard the remainder. Or you could select what you want to keep, Copy it, and then Paste it into a new document.



3

You can use the other tools in your software to enhance the colors in the image and to remove or redraw any parts that need fixing up.

If you like, use the software's text options to add a message to the image. Choose a font and color that complement the image, and size the text so it can be easily read. If you're placing the text over the top of the image, you may find that adding a drop shadow helps "lift" the text so it is more easily read.

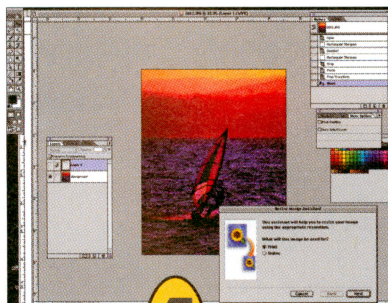
Tell us what you think!

Do you have suggestions for future Mac Workshop articles? Write us a quick note and tell us what you would like to see in upcoming issues! Visit us at:

www.machome.com/janfeedback

Size-Up the Image

Before you can print the image you'll need to resize your masterpiece to fit on your mug. To do this, you'll need to know at what resolution your printer can print. Check the Print dialogue box or your printer manual for its capability, set your image to this resolution, and resize it so it will print at the required size. Programs like Photoshop have a Resize Wizard to step you through the process. Other programs may function differently — check your program's Help file if you're unsure how to do it. If problems persist, try printing on plain paper to gauge your results. When your image is the correct size, save a copy and you're ready to print the decal.



Print and Assemble your Mug

Print a test of the image to ensure it looks appropriate, and the sizing is correct. Then load the Water Slide Decal paper into the printer to print your image on the glossy side. Choose white paper for colored mugs and clear paper for white ones.



Spray the image with the fixative spray following the manufacturer's instructions so the ink won't run. Let the paper dry thoroughly, then cut out the image, and place it in water until the paper curls and the decal lifts off. Slide the decal onto the mug, blot it lightly, and set it aside to dry.

If you're giving your mug away as a present, take a look at the December, 2000 Mac Workshop where you'll get started making your own Mac-created greeting cards.

Your mug may not do well in a dishwasher, but with careful hand washing you can drink to your friends for a long time.



Water Slide/slip Decal Paper

SuperCal decals
Micro Format Inc
1-800-333-0549
www.paper-paper.com

The Crafty PC
www.thecraftypc.com
(732) 873-3424

McGonigal Paper & Graphics
www.mcgpaper.com
(215) 679-8163

Other ideas

Attach decals to:

- glass to create stained glass effects
- candles
- glazed pottery
- wood

Instead of photos:

use clip art
scanned kids' art
drawings

"Everything worked fine yesterday. Now, five minutes before the big meeting, nothing is working."

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as 5% of your disk space. Remember: In a Bind? Click Rewind!



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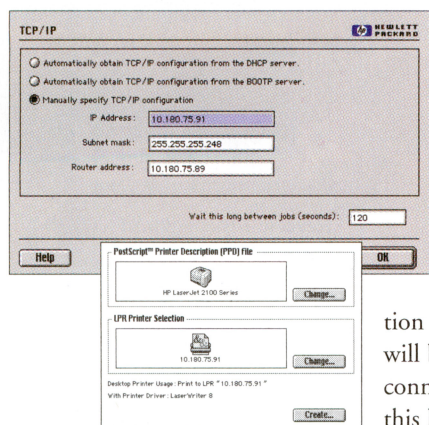
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Printing Over the Internet

Those of you with a small Ethernet network in your home or office can share your Hewlett Packard LaserJet across the Internet. There are few requirements, however. You must have a dedicated TCP/IP address for the LaserJet. If you currently have a DSL or Cable modem and a static IP address for your Macintosh, you're on your way. Just call your Internet Service Provider (ISP) and ask them for another IP. (Please note that some ISPs charge for additional IP addresses.)

Once you have a new address in hand, locate and launch your HP LaserJet Utility. Once opened, click Settings, the second option in the left column. A new set of



options appears to the right. Scroll down until you find the item called TCP/IP. Click once to highlight the option and press the Edit button at the right. A new window appears, allowing you to specify the printer's TCP/IP settings. Click the third option to "Manually specify TCP/IP configuration." Now enter the new IP address given to you by your ISP. The Subnet Mask and Router Address — information located in your TCP/IP Control Panel — will be the same as your DSL or Cable modem connection. Next, enter "120" where it says "Wait this long between jobs (seconds)," and click OK.

You can now quit the HP LaserJet Utility.

The next task is to locate and launch the Desktop Printer Utility. Immediately you are presented with several options to create a new desktop printer. Select the item marked "Printer (LPR)" and click OK. A new untitled window appears. Click "Change..." at the right and choose your printer model. (If your printer isn't listed, click the Generic button at the right.) Now, move to the box marked Internet Printer and click the "Change..." button at the right. A small window appears. Enter the printer's new IP address in the first text box, and type "120" in subsequent box. Click OK to return to the previous window, and then press the Create button in the lower right. (If there is no Create button, you probably have an older version of the software. Simply select Save from the File menu instead.) Give your printer a name and Click Save. A new printer icon then appears on your desktop.

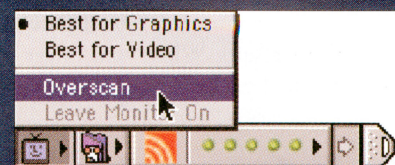
Your printing procedure remains unchanged. Simply select Print from the File menu or press command-P, and you're in business. To print to your LaserJet, your friends and coworkers must use the Desktop Printer Utility and enter the exact same information you just did.

To print to your LaserJet from iBooks and PowerBooks using AirPort you must use this procedure. The wirelessly networked Macs only recognize computers and printers with dedicated IP addresses.

It's important to note that some ISPs have protective "firewalls" that prevent outsiders from accessing the computers and printers. These may interfere with your printing. If you're having problems, call your ISP for more information.

Overscan Your DVD Movies

You can connect Apple's latest PowerBooks and iBooks to a television for presentations or to watch DVD movies. It's a great feature, with one small exception: the desktop image is scaled down to ensure



it is entirely visible on the television's screen. This leaves black borders all around the displayed image, creating problems when viewing DVDs and presentations — depending upon the intensity of the light in different parts of the image, the edges may appear to warp. It's too bad Apple didn't think of a remedy for this problem... or did it? Connect your PowerBook or iBook to the television, and then drag open the Control Strip. Near the far end, you'll discover a new module has appeared. The TV Mirroring module looks like a television with a Mac OS face in it. Its first two options — "Best for Graphics" and "Best for Video" — allow you to optimize the television image for your content. The third option is Overscan, and selecting it will enlarge the entire on-screen image so that the left and

right edges are comfortably hidden from view. Now you can watch your DVDs the way they were meant to be viewed!

Did you know...

There are more than **18,000 products for your Macintosh?** Find them all at Apple's Macintosh Products Guide Website:

<http://guide.apple.com/usindex.html>

Mac OS Update Watch

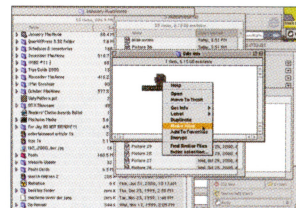
Apple Modem Updater 2.0 This software updates the internal 56k modem firmware (software built into the hardware) in iMacs, iBooks, Power Macintoshes (Blue & White G3s and all G4s) and the PowerBook G3 series. Apple warns that while the reported connection rate may be somewhat lower than you might have seen before the installation, actual modem throughput is at least as good or better. This essentially means that you're working with more quality and less quantity of bandwidth. You can find the update at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11859>.

PowerBook Firmware Update 2.7 This update includes improved support for FireWire. The software requires a PowerBook with built-in FireWire ports running Mac OS 9. You can download the update from <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11849>.

FireWire 2.5 This revision to Apple's FireWire software addresses several issues found with version 2.4. The software now supports more than ten simultaneous connected devices, and a bug has been fixed that caused some devices to work improperly after the computer had been shut down. Anyone who uses FireWire devices with their Macintoshes should install this update. The software requires Mac OS 9 and can be found at <http://asu.info.apple.com/swupdates.nsf/artnum/n11838>.

Drag and Drop Aliases

You can make an alias by holding down option-command (command is the "Apple key") as you drag an item. The alias will appear wherever you drop the file, leaving the original in its current location. The best thing about drag-and-drop aliases is that the file name omits the suffix alias, so long as it is located in another folder from the original. Another way to make an alias is with a contextual menu. Hold control as you click on an item. A pop-up menu gives you the choice to create an alias. Your new pointer will appear in the same folder as the original item.



Trash With Ease

Do you ever find yourself searching for the trash can under layers and layers of open windows just to delete an item? Don't bother! You can delete any item in the Finder with a simple keystroke. Click once on the icon to highlight it and then press command-delete. The item will be instantly whisked to the trash can, where it sits until you select "Empty Trash..." from the Special menu.

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Partitioning Your Hard Drive

How it benefits you

Arguably, partitioning hard drives is not something that Mac users discuss much. Yet, increasingly, there are reasons to understand what partitioning is and why you might benefit from implementing this technique with either your business or home-based Mac.

To partition means to create a number of hard drives on your desktop from the single one that currently resides there. Think of it as slicing up a pie into smaller pieces. Each piece represents a single hard drive. There is no hard and fast rule about the number of hard drives you make, but it does depend on the size of your current hard drive as well as your personal computing needs.

Partitioning your hard drive can help you organize your data and isolate system irregularities. It will let you organize your files, programs and system folder more efficiently than by simply using folders. Imagine, for instance, creating four partitions: one for your system folder, one for programs, another just for files, and finally a disk for media. By doing this you not only save time accessing specific files and programs, but if your

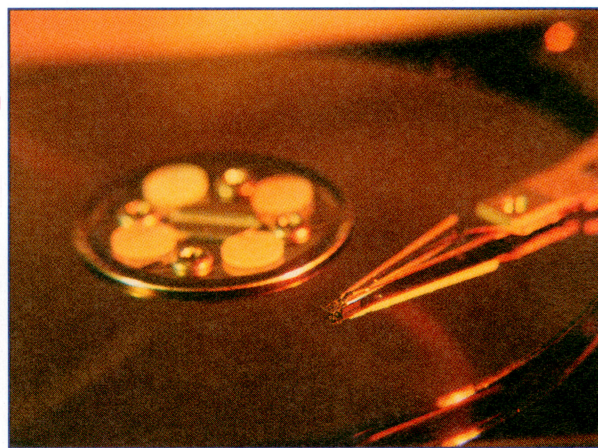
By Ross Tibbits

Mac is ever unfortunate enough to get a virus, it will be isolated within a specific partition. This is also helpful when installing new programs onto your Mac, in case there are conflict issues or bugs associated with the software.

An immediate benefit you'll notice is that your Mac will start up faster and programs will access files faster because program and file data isn't getting scattered all over your hard drive, only within a small piece of it.

Before you start the process of partitioning your hard drive you'll want to do two things: back up your current hard drive and purchase a hard drive utility that walks you through the partitioning procedure.

When you partition your hard drive you are essentially moving around all that data that currently resides on it. Because of this, there is the likelihood that some data may be lost. Thus, partitioning is typically something you'll want to do right after you purchase a new computer when



there is only limited data on the drive. But, if you are careful with your data, you can do it at anytime.

Next, decide what size you want your partitions to be. You might start by creating three partitions, one for System Folder, another for applications, one for program files. You'll want to take the total size of your hard drive and divide it in the following manner — generally. To begin with, it's widely believed that your System Folder partition should be between 150 and 200MB.

Because you will likely be installing new programs onto the application partition for a few years to come, you'll want this to be the largest of your partitions. A safe strategy is to add up the total amount of memory used by your current applications and double it.

Now, take the remainder of available space and create a partition for your files. Because these tend to be much smaller compared to your applications, you can probably make this your smallest partition. Because of the

way the Mac file system divides its disk space, by partitioning your hard drive, your files will take up less space. If you have three or four partitions, your Mac will create smaller files because there is less space on the drive you are saving them to. This is why it is particularly useful to partition your hard drive if you are running low on space. For example, a Simple Text file that took up 39K on a 2.4GB drive prior to partitioning, takes up 13K after partitioning into four drives. If you have more space available, you might consider another partition for downloading MP3 and other files so that you can check them for viruses prior to moving them into other partitions.

Now that you have decided exactly how you want your hard drive partitioned, it's time to restart your Mac using your System CD-ROM, a utilities disk, or a RAM disk. This is important because you don't want to boot your Mac from the drive that you are about to partition.

The easiest way to partition your drive is with a utilities program. Two well-known programs are FWB's Hard Disk Toolkit and Radialogic's Storage Master. Each of these will take you through the partitioning process step-by-step, and are able to partition just about any Mac-compatible drive.

If you think your hard drive is getting over-taxed, your Mac needs a performance boost, or you want to have greater flexibility with organizing your hard drive, partitioning it might be just what the doctor ordered. In the meantime, take a look at the resources we've provided and then contemplate how you'd benefit from partitioning. **MHJ**

Partitioning Resources

FWB Software, LLC.
Hard Disk Toolkit
www.fwb.com
800-656-5443

Radialogic, Inc.
Storage Master
www.radialogic.com
800-656-5443

Five Tips for Home Office Success

An Excerpt from Home Office Know-how

Get psyched. In the beginning of a home-based business venture, it's easy to get dogged by perplexing questions like "what if..." and "am I nuts?". Instead, many solo flyers forget the questions of sanity and focus on "what if" from a positive perspective. "What if" I succeed, outpace projections, need to move into a larger space? This was a promotion from employee to entrepreneur, and entrepreneurs are positive thinkers. Once the honeymoon is over, take it to the next level. A mantra to live by: B-E A-G-G-R-E-S-S-I-V-E! ... Be competitive, agile, sharp and unswayed by the initial slights and jabs that might come from peers, family and friends. They're just jealous and don't understand the plan. Once you're successful, they'll get the picture — and admire you for it.

Avoid chaos. Where's the nerve center of your business going to be? Hopefully, not where the nerve center of the household is. The best home offices operate from behind doors that close. That way, you can drown out the sounds of family, dogs, doorbells, televisions, stereos and the assorted din of household life without miffing the family. Even if you live alone, an office set up in a spare room provides the quiet time solo that flyers come to appreciate. Closed doors also hide mid-week's messy office, when the desire or rationale to clean it up just doesn't exist.

Create a transition. When you commuted, the time in the car or on the train was your transition from home to office. But the home office has no such passage to speak of. By creating a dedicated office, home-based workers are able to walk across

a real threshold and create a mental and physical transition from home to place of work. They can close the door and immerse themselves in the structure and solitude of the office and become more in tune with the office mindset.

Look sharp. Create attractive, colorful stationary — especially business cards and Rolodex cards with your name or subject on the tab. And spread them freely! Marketing will be essential to your new venture, and your stationary is your calling card.

Determine and capitalize on your biological-home office prime time. When are your best times to work on the computer, make telephone calls, or be creative? Do you need to spend this Wednesday calling clients and sources around the country? Should Thursday evening be spent working on the computer with some soft music playing in the background? Some people who have limited client contact (on either a daily basis, or project-by-project) work best with an eclectic schedule. They may, for example, work from dawn 'til noon, break for a few hours, and return later in the afternoon to work in solitude and silence as the phone quiets and the brain hums along. Office hours can be as pliable as words yet to be put to a blank page. Make of them what you need them to be.



By Jeffery D. Zbar
www.goinsoho.com

DSL Versus Cable Internet

Know the basics before you sign up

There is a constant battle amongst Internet providers to supply the fastest Internet connection possible at the least expensive price. This means subscribing to either a DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) or cable modem Internet service.

DSL is a technology used to bring high-bandwidth information to you. Data transfer rates typically allow you to download data at between 512K and 1.544MB per second over ordinary copper telephone lines. You can send data at about 128K. One of the benefits of DSL is that it lets you use your phone at the same time you are on the Web — reducing the need for two phone lines.

If you have cable TV in your home you are already wired for a cable modem. Like DSL, a cable modem

By Ross Tibbits

sends and receives data at two different speeds. When you are downloading information from the network, you'll likely experience transfer rates of between 1 and 3MB per second. You'll be able to send data at speeds between 500K and 2.5MB per second.

Speed Variation

Both DSL and cable modem have data transfer rates that can vary depending on a variety of factors. DSL circuits are unable to provide constant high-bandwidth connections to customers because of poor wire quality, and the distance between the customer and the telephone office.

Cable modems offer potentially greater bandwidth than DSL but it's hampered in that it becomes slower as more people access the line. This is because the cable line is shared amongst many users. The result is that speeds vary and that if heavy downloads are necessary, it is best to wait until an off-peak hour when there are few users online.

If your small business requires consistent Internet connection speeds, DSL might be the way to go, whereas a cable modem is often considered more appropriate for the home where connection speeds are not as important.

Installation

Although DSL has been widely marketed, it isn't neces-

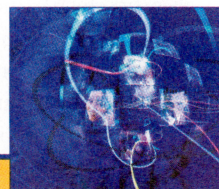
sarily immediately available in your area. Be sure to inquire what the waiting period is. Also, check into do-it-yourself installation packages that are now available in some areas.

Much of the infrastructure is already in place for cable modems, so there are not the same availability and installation issues as with DSL.

Security

Although both mediums are relatively safe from prying eyes, you may want to take a close look at your network settings if you plan on connecting more than one computer or printer. Turning-off File Sharing will ensure that no one can read your data. If you need to share files or printers it is wise to install firewall hardware or software between the network and the modem.

Take a look at the resources to the right for a quick guide on where to look for cable or DSL service. Be aware that prices for DSL and cable vary depending on the service package that you order and the area you live in. Also, DSL prices have been falling steadily, so price rather than type of service might play a larger role in your final decision. **MHJ**



Resources

DSL

Primary Networks
www.primary.net/dsl

SBC Communication
www.sbc.com

Bell South
www.bellsouth.com

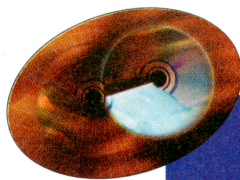
Qwest
www.qwest.net

Cable

Cox Cable
www.cox.com

AT&T
www.att.com

Time Warner
www.timewarner.com

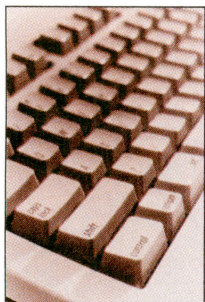


Software

Mac OS X Tips and Tricks

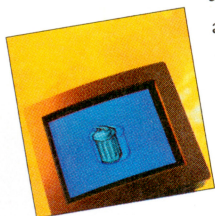
Dock and keyboard commands

1. Press the Command key and click on an icon in the dock and a Finder window opens revealing the Folder that contains the file.
2. Press the Command-Option keys and click on an application and it will hide all the other windows of open applications and bring the windows of the selected application to the front. If you Command-Option-click on a document, the application associated with that document will launch, all the other open application windows will hide and the clicked on document will come to the front.
3. Press the Option key and click on an open application. The open application's window will be brought to the front and any open Finder windows will be hidden, but all other visible applications remain visible.
4. Press Command-Tab repeatedly and you will cycle through all the open applications (similar to Mac OS 9).
5. Command-Option-Escape works in Mac OS X to produce a Force Quit. The dialog box now includes a list of every open application and you get to decide which one to quit.



Trash tidbits

1. Hold down the Option key when selecting to Empty the Trash and avoid getting the dialog asking you to confirm the operation.
2. Can't Empty Trash: When you try to empty the Trash do you get an error message that says: "The operation could not be completed because you do not have sufficient privileges to .Trash." If so, you are probably trying to delete a file locked in Mac OS 9.



Audio Software

Macster 1.0 pr5.5

Blackhole Media - Napster for Macs

mpegToaster 0.4

ToastedMarshmallow - audio player featuring song lists, MP3, and MP2 support

jNapster 0.1

V. Harikris - set of Java classes for connecting to Napster music servers and finding songs

Business Software

Stone TimeCard 1.0.1

Stone Design - time tracker and invoicing application

Calendar-Reminder 1.1

Douglas Andrews - desktop calendar program

P&L Systems Mesa 3.0

P&L Systems - spreadsheet application

Graphics

SlideShow 1.5

T. Schnitzer - image collection tool

TIFFany3 3.1.5

Caffeine Software - desktop image processing

epicware Nailer 1.0

Epicware - view images of different formats as thumbnails

Games

Quake 3 Arena for Mac OS X 1.17

Omni Group - application for the 3D shooter

VideoPoker - 1.0b1

MacTelligence - it's your deal

MacBlox - 1.4

Joakim Arfvidsson - Colorful Tetris game

Utilities

OpenStrip - 0.1

Joe Strout - Control Strip in a Mac OS X theme

OmniDiskSweeper 1.0b1

Omni Development - helps you clean out your hard drive

Classic Menu 2.0

Sig Software - provides Mac OS X with an Apple menu

Word Processing

AppleWorks - 6.0.4

Apple - Combined word processor, spreadsheet, database, drawing tools

Burn It Up

Sony Spressa iLink 1600L vs. CD Revo

Consumers have been blessed with an ever larger selection of products from which to choose in these heady days of the economy (knock on wood). It's not annually, or even semi-annually that we can find a new digital camera, software product, or storage device appear on store shelves — it's almost monthly.

Increasingly, a portion of these products demand larger amounts of memory. Digital images and MP3 tracks require more storage space. One of the best ways to manage images and other data is by burning CDs.

This month MacHome reviews two CD-RW drives, the Sony Spressa CRX 1600L and CD Cylcone's CD Revo. Each has FireWire and remarkably fast speeds. But before getting too deep into the pros and cons of one drive over another, let's clarify the terms.

CD-R and CD-RW

The term CD-R means that the media can be recorded onto. But, once you have written information onto the disk, it cannot be erased. But, data can be added incrementally to the CD-R disks to fill them. This makes it an

By Ross Tibbits

excellent and inexpensive media for storing files and distributing information.

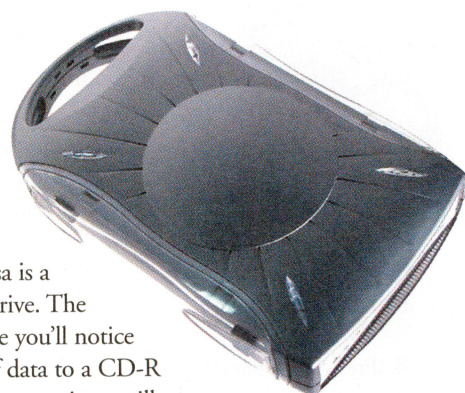
CD-RW's, or what are called ReWritable disks, differ from a CD-R in that you can write to the disk and just as with a common floppy disk, write over the old information with new data — as many as 1,000 times.

Performance

Each of these drives offers fast FireWire data transfer. This technology will allow the devices to write and read data quickly. The Sony Spressa iLink is capable of writing data onto a CD-R at 12X max speed and CD-RW at 8X max speed. At 12X, the Spressa iLink can record a full 650 MB onto a CD-R disk in about five minutes. At 8X this time drops to about nine minutes. The Spressa can read at a max speed of 32X, or 4,800 kilo-

bytes per second.

The CD Revo is a little faster — 12X10X32, whereas the Spressa is a 12X8X32 speed drive. The only real difference you'll notice is the recording of data to a CD-R or CD-RW, where your times will decrease slightly over the Spressa.



Shapes and Sizes

In this age of organically shaped consumer products, it's nice to come across a rectangular box enclosure once in a while. I say this only because these boxes are very good for either stacking other devices or materials on. Thus it is nice to see that Sony hasn't gotten carried away with their CD-RW's box enclosure, which is both functional and utilitarian — the no nonsense approach.

The CD Revo, on the other hand, takes the organic approach and has created something that looks as though it came from Star Trek rather than a hardware company. The real problem with the shape is that you can't really put anything on top of it, except for another CD Revo drive, and it doesn't stand on its side like the Sony.

Plug and Play

The gratification you get from these FireWire drives is almost immediate. Just take them out of the box, plug in

the FireWire cable and power connections, and you are off and running. It's one of the joys of plug-and-play, a standard that lets the computer immediately recognize devices without installing drivers. So, all you'll have to do is load a CD and your Mac can identify it immediately — instant gratification.

Hardware

Each drive allows you to use standard sized CDs and the smaller 3 inch CDs too. The Sony differentiates itself by adding four small extendable tabs that are used to hold the CDs in if you chose to stand the drive on its side — a real space saver. By extending the two tabs on the lower edge of the tray, they allow you to easily drop the CD into the tray without worrying about it falling out or getting stuck as it retracts into the drive bay. Because you cannot set the CD Revo on its side, you don't need such tabs.

Software

A significant difference between these two products is the software that comes bundled with them. Sony has partnered with a couple of different software manufacturers to give you significant flexibility. If you're a music buff or a business professional, you'll find you have just about everything you need to burn CDs the way you want. Although the Revo's software won't leave you without the tools to do the job, the software is simply geared to a narrower market.

The Sony comes packaged with two programs, Mixman Studio Mac and their Discribe software. Mixman, as the name implies, lets you create professional sounding music on your Mac by mixing sounds and different sound tracks. The nicely crafted main program window shows two turntables and a series of controls. Although Mixman comes with a number of demo tracks that you can combine to create your own unique tracks, you can also import other tracks or sounds at will. There is an extensive manual to help guide new users through the exciting process of making music.

Describe is the software that you'll use

to actually burn CDs with the CRX 1600L. Like Mixmaster, the level of refinement within the main window is very high. The process of making and copying CDs is uncomplicated and easy to do. Simply let the program walk you through the process. You can easily create music CDs by first converting MP3 tracks into AIFF tracks (which can be read by any CD player), or create collections of MP3 tracks for use with a player. Just drag and drop files onto the main window.

The Revo, on the other hand, comes packaged with the well known and respected Toast 4.1.1 software, developed by Adaptec. This is essentially the equivalent of Sony's Discribe, and allows you to create any number of different kinds of CDs for music or work. You'll find no fault with Toast, it's just not as fancy looking as Discribe. You can also choose from a variety of formats to convert to using Toast's Audio extractor.

Manuals

At MacHome we truly appreciate manuals written specifically for the Mac. Frequently manufacturers develop Mac manuals as though they were the ugly stepchild — using unclear language, poor graphics, and generally not addressing as many issues as they ought to. As with the software, there is a wide gulf in the attention to detail that each manufacturer has placed on this element.

Sony's manual is clear and well-written, and it's got a complete section just for the Mac — including diagrams for the blue and White G3, the G4, and the iMac DV. So rest assured, you'll have no difficulty connecting the CRX 1600L to your Mac. What I enjoyed most about this 41 page manual was that it actually has a glossary of terms in the back. Not only is this a very useful resource, but it also helps to introduce the consumer to important terms associated with the product. And, it's well written!

The CD Revo on the other hand is minimalist by comparison. You'll find a



folded one page sheet inside the shipping box that opens up to reveal sets of instructions and diagrams. To their credit, they make it look as simple as connecting an iMac for the first time. Although the manual is adequate, it would be nice to see something more in depth.

Conclusions

If you are knowledgeable about CD-RWs and you want to get right to work burning CDs after you open the box, the CD Revo isn't a bad choice — it certainly has impressive speeds. The Sony provides you with an impressive manual, great software, a practical and functional design, and it's only a bit slower than the CD Revo. It's a tough combination to beat! **MHJ**

rating ★★★★★

Sony Pressa iLink CRX 1600L
\$399, Sony, Inc.
800-352-7669
www.sony.com
PowerPC Required

👍 Fast, functional design, great manual and software

👎 None to speak of

rating ★★★★★

CD Revo
\$449, CD Cyclone
949-470-4795
www.cdrevo.com
PowerPC Required

👍 Fast, respected software

👎 Impractical design, skimpy manual, expensive

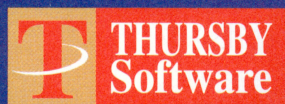
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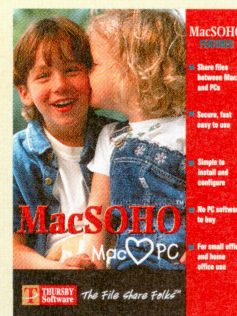
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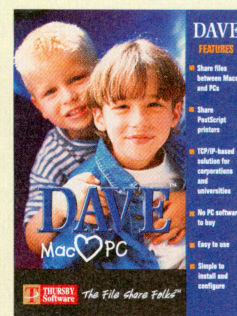
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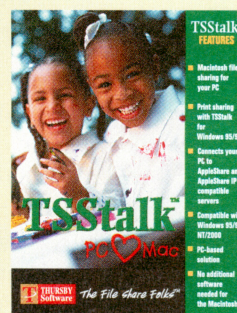
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between your Mac and
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or AppleShare server.

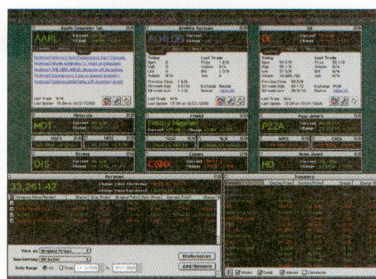
PowerTicker 2.0

Aladdin Systems' MacTicker has taken on a new name and with it comes nearly a dozen new features that add a wide variety of options. With PowerTicker 2.0 Aladdin adds enhancements that are guaranteed to please both the casual and the serious stock watcher.

When we last looked at PowerTicker we were disappointed that the program lacked any portfolio capabilities. Well, we're happy to report that portfolios are no longer missing from PowerTicker. In fact, the program not only allows you to build a single portfolio, you can actually create as many portfolios as you'd like. Frankly, we would have been tickled if that was the only new feature added to PowerTicker, but Aladdin has taken a multitude of steps to make PowerTicker just about the best stock tracking app for your Mac. Included in the program's many new or upgraded features is a com-

pletely redesigned Stock Report window that organizes detail information using tabs called Current, Details and News. The Current tab displays your current stock information, Details provides info like Earnings Per Share and Price to Earnings Ratio and the last dividend paid. The News tab provides web links to the latest news for your currently selected stock. The program now provides the ability to track currencies and includes a summary window of all the stocks that you have configured. It also provides email alerts triggered by changes in stock prices.

PowerTicker's only obvious weakness still lies with the portfolio. While the program allows you to easily open individual stock, index and fund reports by selecting them from a menu, opening a Portfolio requires you to navigate an Open File dialog window. This is an obvious design flaw, especially when you



consider the ease with which you can open any of the other PowerTicker reports.

The Final Decision PowerTicker is an excellent upgrade for current MacTicker users and a worthy addition to any set of stock and portfolio management tools. Properly configured, PowerTicker whoops the pants off of any of its web-based competitors.

—Jeff Battersby

rating ★★★★★

\$29.95 Upgrade \$9.95, Aladdin Systems
www.aladdinsystems.com
831-761-6200

👍 Multitude of new features, including portfolio management and email alerts

👎 Opening a portfolio requires finding it on your hard drive

Epson Stylus Color 777/777i

Inkjet printer technology, especially for the consumer market, seems to be advancing with each tick of the clock, and it seems that nearly every day Epson comes out with a new line of low-cost printers to take advantage of it. The Stylus Color 777 (and the 777i in iMac colors) is an affordable printer with heavy duty capabilities.

This compact USB printer has a no-hassle set up. Just read the well-written and illustrated directions, plug it in, turn it on, drop in the ink cartridges, install the driver software, and you're ready to print. Look for additional software such



as Corel Print House and Epson Film-Factory, though installation of software crashed on certain test computers. It's best to install with base extensions on.

This four-color printer has a maximum resolution of 2880 x 720 dpi

which works well for both photos and printed documents. The print quality for high-resolution color photographs (between 150 and 300 dpi) is virtually flawless with excellent detail in both the highlights and shadows.

Skin tones look true to life. However, if you are printing such photos on glossy paper at sizes such as 4 x 6, 5 x 7, and 8 x 10, be prepared to wait up to 11 minutes for the prints to emerge.

Even for run-of-the-mill black text printing, which was also of excellent quality, we were disappointed by the speed. Printing a text document on plain

paper at the fastest setting was four pages per minute instead of the eight pages stated in the product specifications. Also, because this is a USB printer, it needs a USB cable, and we were disappointed that this was left out of the box.

The software interface is easy to figure out and gives you a variety of photographic options depending on the kind of image you want to print.

The Final Decision This is an excellent all-around photo and text printer, if you don't mind the wait, and you've got a spare USB cable lying around.

—Jackie Dove

rating ★★★★★

\$99, Epson
800-463-7766
www.epson.com
PowerPC Required

👍 Superb photo and text print quality, easy set-up, convenient size, quiet operation

👎 Slow, no USB cable in the box, software installation crashed computer

MiniPRO Mouse

Traveling with your iBook or PowerBook can be a great experience. But quite honestly, don't you sometimes get tired of the trackpad? Purchasing a compact USB mouse is a quick and inexpensive way to add more comfort and convenience to your portable Mac. One such mouse, the MiniPRO Mouse by Contour Design, has some great features that might be just what you're looking for.

The first thing you notice about this mouse is that it comes on its own hard-shelled travel case. You'll open the case to find a well-designed and well-built optical mouse. Simply plug the little guy into the USB port on your keyboard and away you go.



Because this is an optical mouse, there are no moving parts and therefore, no mouse ball to clean. The optical sensor is excellent at reading just about any surface you are using it on. Nary a skip was seen.

Dual buttons are a feature not found on many Mac mice this size. The MiniPRO neatly incorporates a small second button at the base of the larger, fingernail shaped button — which you can replace with a variety of Mac-like colors. The smaller button is so

discreetly incorporated that you might very well not notice it at all until you read the instruction.

After you download a driver from Contours' Website, a new item called Contour Overdrive will appear in your Control Panel. This lets you program the second button to perform a variety of functions like scrolling, double-clicks, and even

Macros. You'll also find a drop-down menu to control the speed of your MiniPRO. There are 15 settings from very slow to very, very fast.

Another neat feature of the MiniPRO mouse is that, unlike some other mice, this one has a 30 inch cord.

The Final Decision If you travel a lot or just desire a smaller, more fully functioning mouse, this is the one for you. Its great design incorporates dual buttons, a long cord, optical tracking, and Mac-colored button accents.

— Ross Tibbits

rating ★★★★★

\$35, Contour Design, Inc.
800-462-6678
www.contourdesign.com
PowerPC Required

Great design, optical tracking, programmable buttons, long cord, Mac colors

Not one

Brother MFC 7400C

Imagine incorporating your printer, fax, copier, and other peripherals into one machine. If you did, you'd have Brother's new MFC 7400C.

The MFC (Multi-Functional Center) 7400C will let you print, copy, fax, and scan, and you can even capture photo and video images by loading your media cards. Once you have installed the software suite you're all set to go.

And, it appears that everything works just fine with the MFC 7400c. By attaching a USB cable (not included) to your Mac, you can print directly to the 7400c in black and white or color. Printing text is fast and the results are very pleasing. Colors are crisp and clear because of the four color ink cartridges. There are three different print settings to choose from: Draft (10 pages per minute), Normal (300dpi), and Fine (600dpi). If you choose to print on inkjet paper, you'll get

a fourth option, Super Fine (1200 dpi).

When it comes time to copy, or fax, you'll simply load the upper paper tray with your documents and then use the easy to understand front control panel to identify the task you wish to begin. The copier function is as capable as any you'd find in a stand-alone product.

Faxing was equally as uncomplicated. Unfortunately, you'll be limited to receiving faxes to the machine, rather than directly to your Mac due to a lack of Mac software for this function.

If you have a camera that uses SmartMedia or CompactFlash cards, you can print images directly from the printer by inserting the card into one of two slots. Print a contact sheet or individual images with ease. The highest qual-



ity print mode produced rather grainy and light images.

The Final Decision This is a great device for anyone who wants incredible functionality at arms length — and you can't beat the price. It would be nice if they'd developed more software for

the Mac and if print quality were slightly improved for media cards.

— Ross Tibbits

rating ★★★★★

\$399, Brother International Corporation
www.brother.com
800-276-7746
PowerPC Required

Great functionality, compact, light, inexpensive

Limited Mac functionality, media card print quality weak, no USB cable

PhotoWebber 1.0

Photoshop gurus who do not wish to occupy their precious time bringing images and type into HTML authoring programs now have PhotoWebber 1.0, a software program that lets you design your Website interface in Photoshop and then import and translate it into HTML. No coding necessary.

PhotoWebber is the most innovative Web application to hit the market in a long time, and promises to be extremely useful for graphic designers who are allergic to coding and Web authoring. PhotoWebber works by importing layered Photoshop files such that each layer is output to a Web ready graphic or text, complete with code.

The program is also compatible with Corel Photo Paint and Painter. It even lets you create interactive features such as links, buttons, and rollovers. The best part about this program is that it keeps

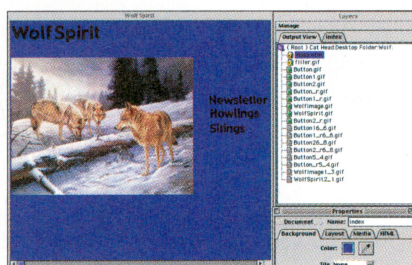
all your graphical elements the same position on the Web page as they appear in your original Photoshop file.

If you are already familiar with the Photoshop and Macintosh interface, you will have no problem getting up and running with PhotoWebber. We had a simple Web page built — without consulting the documentation — in about five minutes.

It is also impressive that PhotoWebber gives you the choice of outputting your HTML in either table or style sheet format to coincide with various generations of Web browsers and versions of HTML.

One warning: If you are creating JavaScript rollovers, you'll have to stick to PhotoWebber's naming conventions for them to work.

While the \$249 pricetag is reasonable for relieving artists from tedious HTML



detail, Media Lab is charging \$299 for the boxed version, which is a tad expensive.

The Final Decision

PhotoWebber 1.0 is an

intuitive, easy-to-use program that takes the pain of HTML and JavaScript coding out of interface design in Photoshop. Apart from a high price for the boxed version, and the naming requirements for the rollovers, graphic and interface designers will save a lot of time with this program.

— Jackie Dove

rating ★★★★★

\$249 (download) \$299 (box), Media Lab
www.medialab.com
800-282-5361



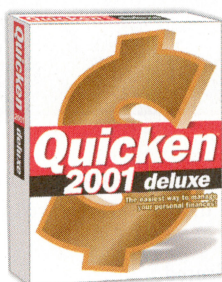
Easy to learn and use, versatile



Photo naming conventions unfamiliar, somewhat expensive in boxed edition

Quicken 2001 Deluxe

It was only a few years ago when it looked as though Intuit was going to completely abandon the Macintosh market and discontinue their popular and easy to use personal finance software, Quicken. Fortunately, because of a tremendous outcry from Mac enthusiasts and the success of the iMac, we can now rest easy. Intuit's newfound dedication to the Mac has led to the development and subsequent release of Quicken 2001 Deluxe. Although we might like to think of ourselves as perfect, even the most fastidious of us will forget to pay a bill on time every once in a while. To help ensure your strong credit rating, Quicken 2001 has a new feature called Missed Bill



Reminder. As the name implies, this feature reminds you that you have a bill due by recognizing patterns of past payments in your register.

And because you are fastidious, you'll want to mind your IRA portfolio from wherever you might be. Quicken 2001 lets you view your portfolio information from any computer connected to the Internet. Simply create a password and you can upload your investment information to the Quicken.com site. The same can be done with your checking and savings accounts.

Making sure that your portfolio and banking information is consistently updated is important, but you shouldn't stop there. Updating your software is equally as important. In this light, Quicken has created a Check for Updates category under their File menu. By clicking on this, you'll acti-

vate Apple's Software Update program (Mac OS 9) which searches your hard drive and then identifies what programs need updating. Thus, if there is new tax, investment, or banking software that Intuit has developed, you'll have it all at your fingertips.

The Final Decision What started out as a relatively simple personal finances program has evolved to include numerous Web integration features and financial tools. The ability to access your data from anywhere, get reminders about paying bills on time, and to get quick software updates is a welcome change.

— Ross Tibbits

rating ★★★★★

\$60, Intuit, Inc.
www.intuit.com
800-446-8848



Excellent Web integration, software update, and bill reminder features



None

The Classic Game of World Domination!

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It is the time of empires and armies, of countries and conquests. The world is at war and you are in command of an army fighting for global domination. Organize your forces in a ruthless campaign to crush your enemies and take their territories in this fast-paced game of strategy, negotiation and luck.



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"...virtually any family member can enjoy the game, it's a must have for strategy fans, and action fans would find it hard to resist Risk II's addictive gameplay."
— Mac Central —

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Canon Video Home Edition

There's been a lot of buzz lately about desktop video, and it usually corresponds with the buzz about FireWire. But if you don't have FireWire, then you might want to take a look at Canon Video Home Edition, which works with non-FireWire video programs.



video capture card. Your media goes into an area of Canon Video called the Album, which allows you to name, sort, and preview all of your creative assets.

To build your movie, drag media from the Album to the Timeline, which looks like an unfurled roll of film, showing shots, transitions, text, and a soundtrack. Canon Video provides an assortment of transitions — such as blends, wipes, and pushes — and gives you a good amount of control over speed,

intensity, direction, and other parameters.

Unfortunately, you can't assemble the shots, transitions, sounds, and titles that make up your movie, get it all just right, and then save your project. If you quit, it won't be there when you start up the program again. You can save your work as a single QuickTime movie, but you won't be able to edit the components after that

point. Also, it doesn't support MP3 files, occasionally the last frame was missing from exported QuickTime movies, and the Help menu is lacking.

The Final Decision If you don't have FireWire, Canon Video Home Edition might be a good way to put together simple, short films from your video footage. Unfortunately, in the current version, it's hampered with some very severe limitations.

— David Weiss

rating

\$50, Canon
800-385-2155
www.software.canon.com

 Provides a media browser, good variety of transitions, buttons provide lively feedback

 No FireWire or MP3 support, can't save your projects before completion, limited program help, drops frames when exporting to QuickTime

Philips 109B

If you use your computer for graphic arts, Web design, or even word processing, you'll appreciate the flexibility of a 19-inch monitor. Add a flat screen into the mix and you've got a cool package. This is exactly what you'll get with Philips' new 109B, and from the looks of it, you might want to check it out.

Although so many 19-inch monitors require that you sacrifice precious desktop real estate, the Philips 109B is a svelte contender. Philips has worked hard to minimize the size of the monitor's box, keeping it just over 17 inches deep.

The 109B's flat screen has a viewable area of 18 inches and will operate at reso-



lutions of up to 1,920 x 1,440, if your video card is capable. I found the 1,280 x 1,024 setting clear, well-focused, and flicker-free at a refresh rate of 85Hz.

There is a minor graying of the screen on the left and right edges which, according to technical support, is an anomaly. Colorful images are consistent and bright throughout.

The lower edge of the front panel sports six buttons — one for power, and the others for adjusting the brightness, contrast, height, width, and shape. These are some of the easiest controls I have come across, as they are easily accessible and intuitive. Finally, someone has gotten it right!

The 109B comes bundled with four programs, including Internet Explorer 4.5, Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0, QuickTime 4.0, and one called LightFrame.

LightFrame allows you to click on an activated window and brighten it dramatically, while dimming the desktop behind. It is designed to be used to brighten graphics images and QuickTime movies that are sometimes a little dark. But it's not designed for text pages.

The Final Decision The Philips 109B is eye-catching and compact, and it is complimented by a high-quality flat screen that is almost flawless, save for a little graying on the edges. But these minor flaws shouldn't keep you from seriously considering it.

— Ross Tibbits

rating

\$449, Philips Electronics
800-326-6586
www.philips.com

 Compact design, excellent color reproduction, nice resolution, useful software, thoughtful controls

 Minor screen discoloring

Browser Brigade

Sick of Netscape, Internet Explorer? Catch the Alternative Browser Experience

Sometimes it seems as if the cyberworld has gone flat. Sure, some of us "grew up" with Netscape Navigator, while others watched with barely concealed horror as Microsoft put the most ungodly perfections on Internet Explorer to make it the dazzler it is today. Yet it seems that a monotonous hegemony has quietly taken place.

The so-called browser wars have morphed into this tedious Coke vs. Pepsi scenario: Netscape or IE. But are they the only contenders?

If you're tired of the same old interfaces, and want to inject some variety in your life, there are other browsers out there sporting many cool features, and taking up a lot less memory and hard drive space, than the current behemoths. While these browsers are technically in beta, we test drove a few of them, and some work quite well.

Hail a Cab

iCab, a very sophisticated Web browser, has been a work in progress for quite some time, and we are disappointed that it has not been officially released yet. Despite its pre-

view status, it has been a great favorite here at *MacHome* because of its small size (only 3.2MB) and its superlative

performance. It is the only browser that lets you automatically filter out at least some banner ads. Instead of a twirling Earth indicating that the browser is retrieving a page, observe an animated yellow taxi cab taking off in a cloud of yellow dust.

The first time you launch iCab, the software asks from which browser to import your bookmarks, so even the first time you use iCab, it feels like home. The toolbar icons are small and delicate — you can decide which items to display and whether you want to see both icons and text. It also has a pull-down navigation menu. An elaborate set of preferences lets you do everything from regulate your cookies to determine what size banner ads you want to dispense with viewing. You can

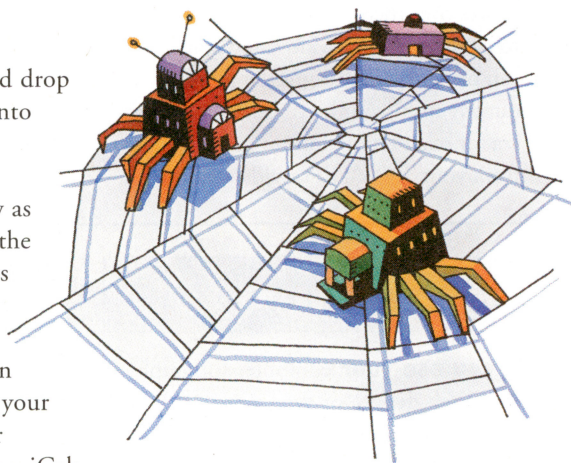
drag and drop URLs into the address window as well as the favorites file. You can even import your Toolbar Favorites. iCab

works with Mac OS9's Keychain, letting you access your passwords to Websites. It has all of the plug-in capabilities of the standard browsers and plays QuickTime files without a hitch.

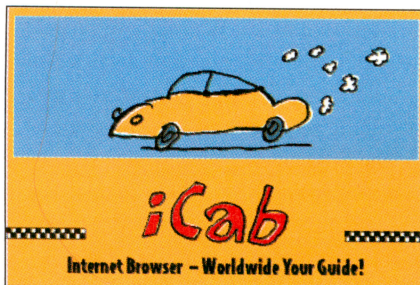
We are touched by iCab's concern for HTML, the Website markup language. If you are a Webmaster, you'll be very interested in the little smiley face on the right hand side of the address window. If the face is smiling (which is rarely), that means that the HTML syntax for the page you're viewing is perfect; if he's frowning (which is most of the time), then the HTML is just not up to par. Whoops!

There are some very interesting touches in iCab. You can change the interface to various iMac colors, for instance, and there is an extensive set of preferences to choose from. However, there are no Newsgroup or Telnet functions.

Watch out for expiration dates on the iCab previews. The one we used expires at the end of January.



By Jackie Dove



Browser: iCab

Developer: Alexander Claus & iCab

Price: Free (Pro version \$29)

Website: www.icab.de

Version: Preview 2.1a

Prowl the Web

While a picture says a thousand words, sometimes all you really need is text and only text. And that's where MacLynx, the Mac version of the famous all-text browser Lynx, shines. The text is swift to download and read, and if that's all you need to get going, your problems are solved. MacLynx downloads at a tidy 812k, and obviously will not display images. MacLynx supports some Mac protocols such as drag and drop URLs and Speech Manager, as well as popular Web capabilities such as frames and cookies.

Those accustomed to the graphical interface of Netscape or IE may be taken aback by the first sight of MacLynx 2.7.1 beta1. Website readability in Lynx is the ultimate challenge for Web designers, and unfortunately, most don't do a good job of making sites comprehensible in text-only browsers.

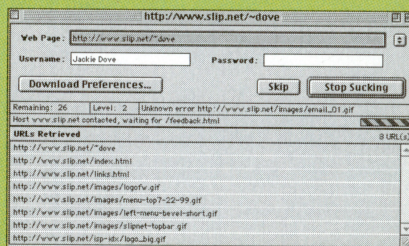
MacLynx is command-line driven, which means no icons to click on. The links are in bold face, and as you select a link, it is highlighted in black. You use the space bar to scroll down, and the arrow keys to navigate the links. What's nice about MacLynx is that you never have to remember the commands by heart, as there is always a menu you can refer to at the bottom of the browser window. Clicking on a link will take you to that page. You can resize the browser window to whatever dimensions are comfortable for you, and you can drag and drop URLs into the MacLynx address window to call up a page. The space bar takes you to the next page. While MacLynx takes a bit of getting used to, you'll find that your fingers easily adjust to the unfamiliar com-

Mother's Little Helper

While some of the muscular browsers seem to do everything except bake a chocolate cake, sometimes the most commonplace browser functions seem elusive. That's where specialty browser utilities come in handy.

Devil's in the Details

Say you want to investigate a Website, but you don't want to tie up your phone line doing it? You can use Web Devil, a utility that will literally suck down all the files, images, and links from a particular page so you can browse while offline. Web Devil puts a complete copy of a Website, or as much as you desire of that site, on your hard drive. All you have to do is open a Web Devil window while online, type in the desired URL, and the utility downloads all the informa-



tion into a folder on your desktop. Then sign off and cruise the site.

Application: Web Devil

Company: Chaotic Software

Price: \$20

Website: www.chaoticsoftware.com

Confidentially...

If you're a veteran Web cruiser, then you know how many registration numbers, user IDs, passwords, and serial numbers there are to keep track of. If you want to read a news story in the *New York Times*, set up a personalized page on a

Web portal, or shop online, you'll need to identify yourself. Web Confidential is designed to make sure you get to password-protected pages quickly. It can fill in your Web forms as well.

Web Confidential has a card file interface that works with both Netscape or IE. There's also a version for the Palm Pilot. The software gives you a window from which to operate so you can go from one password protected Website to another, and integrates with Mac OS 9's Keychain feature. Once you install Web Confidential, it places several new items in your browser's main menu bar allowing you to access those protected sites via a pull-down menu.

Application: Web Confidential

Company: Web Confidential

Price: \$20

Website: www.web-confidential.com

It's a Wash

The one thing you don't want to do when you install MacWasher 2.1 for the first time is to double-click the AutoWash icon. Before you can bat an eyelash, your Web history will be gone. And that's the point of MacWasher, a file and disk clean-up utility for both Netscape and IE.

If you don't want folks snooping around your browser history files, this utility is for you. It removes all traces of where you've been on the Web. It also lets you remove unneeded system files and temporary files, freeing up valuable space on your hard drive. A "bleach" function overwrites sensitive files.

Application: MacWasher 2.1

Company: Webroot

Price: \$30 Website: www.webroot.com

mands and the text you want to read is instantly at your fingertips.

Browser: MacLynx

Developer: Lynx Development Team

Price: Free

Website: [www.lirmm.fr/~gutkneco/](http://www.lirmm.fr/~gutkneco/maclynx)

maclynx

Version: 2.7.1 beta1

WannaBe You and Me

The second we saw this text-based browser, we got a warm and fuzzy feeling. Though WannaBe 1.0a46 does not display images, it does adopt some of the attributes of its graphical brethren, making it very intuitive and not at all intimidating. For instance, just as in

Netscape or IE, WannaBe hyperlinks are clearly underlined in default blue, and a mouse click will take you to them. As you scroll your mouse over the links, their URLs appear in a small window. WannaBe is small, only 936k, and does not support images, tables, forms, bookmarks, cookies, and other niceties. Unfortunately, you cannot drag and drop Website URLs into the address window.

WannaBe contains a set of keyboard shortcuts that perform the usual browser navigation functions. Under the Go menu, you have the option of opening any page in your graphical browser if you so desire. A full Help menu guides you through the ins and outs of this program.

If you want just the text, ma'am, and you want it fast and easy-to-read, WannaBe could well fit the bill.

Browser: WannaBe

Developer: David T. Pierson

Price: Free

Website: <http://mindstory.com/wb2>

Version: 1.0a46

Opera On the Horizon

Opera, a popular browser on the platform of the Windows persuasion, is in



the process of being brought to the Mac. Because it is still in a very early stage of its development, Opera has many interface and performance issues still pending. Among items planned for this new Mac browser are: download manager, plug-ins, drag and drop, AppleScript, Java, bookmarks, keyboard shortcuts, and others. The company was not specific on when a stable version will be available to the general public, so keep your eyes peeled.

Browser: Opera

Company: Opera Software

Price: NA

Website: www.opera.com

Version: Technical Preview 1

(a really early, unstable version)

Browsing in 3D

Way back when, in 1995 or so, when the Internet craze was just beginning to catch fire, some extremely brilliant programmers came up with a way to view virtual reality Websites, often called virtual worlds, on the computer screen. They even constructed a markup language called Virtual Reality Modeling Language or VRML, to build 3D worlds. These are designed to give viewers an immersive desktop experience, letting you, among other things, view, move, rotate, and otherwise interact with a 3D scene. For example, you can view a room and use controls to move through the room just as though you were walking through it in real space.

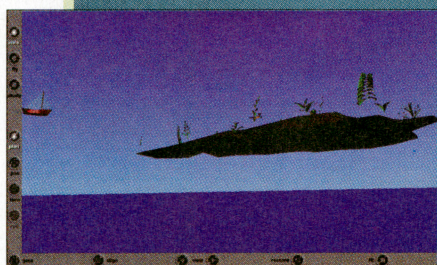
While virtual worlds on the Web enjoyed limited success, especially among technology aficionados, the rate of mass market acceptance failed to live up to the initial hype. There are several important barriers to virtual worlds catching on in the mainstream, the most important of which is bandwidth. Even a relatively swift 56k dial-up

connection to the Internet can render complex 3D objects painfully slowly, though higher speed connections such as DSL, cable modem, ISDN, and T1 lines at the office could ease some of the bandwidth limitations.

Another major impediment to the mass marketing of 3D virtual worlds on the Web is that earlier versions of the major browsers

(Netscape and Internet Explorer) were not consistent about integrating 3D viewers into their products, and the latest versions of Netscape and IE do not include such viewers. That means a plug-in or a helper application must be downloaded to view such worlds. In addition, 3D viewers need extra memory allocated to the browser, and it's also a good idea to have the latest functioning version of Java installed. Even then, the VRML browsing experience can be problematic. However, for the curious (and the brave), there are a couple of browsers you can try. Have a look at the Cortona 1.0 beta from Parallel Graphics (www.parallelgraphics.com). After downloading and installing Cortona in either Netscape or IE, just click on a virtual world, and the Cortona viewer is launched inside your browser window.

In addition, Cosmo Player 2.1 is a Netscape plug-in that gives you a set of controls over which you can view 3D scenes on the Web. The controls, which appear as a console when you click on a virtual world, let you move quickly or slowly, as well as tilt and pan. This version of Cosmo player, developed by Silicon Graphics and available at www.cai.com/cosmo, is free and unsupported. It does not work with IE.



Tom Clancy's
RAINBOW SIX
ROGUE SPEAR

MISSED ME?



Team Rainbow is back in full force. Rogue Spear—the sequel to Rainbow Six—immerses you even deeper in the explosive action of an elite, multi-national strike force.

Rogue Spear feels so real, you'll be yelling "Tango Down!" in your sleep for weeks. And the multi-player action is to die for. Remember, when stalking an enemy: Walk softly but strike like a thunderbolt. You only have one shot to save the world.

Eighteen new missions, full sniper support, a new replay feature and terrorists more realistic and lethal than ever!

Includes 13 Additional Levels with Bonus MISSION PACK: URBAN OPERATIONS



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MacSoft®
us.infogrames.com

Shareware Freaks Unite

If you're looking for audio/video software, games, graphics, Internet utilities, system software, and updates, look no further than

By Jackie Dove

mac.org (www.mac.org), an independent site administered by Jason Weng, currently a student at the University of California Riverside. While neither fancy nor entertaining, this site offers a host of shareware, freeware, and demos for those with Mac Fever. A chart with links and one-line descriptions is posted on each category page. The size of the download, however, is conveniently provided. Because Jason is still in school his updates tend to be sporadic. Nonetheless, we found a variety of interesting entries on this site.

Share and Share Alike

Cheap Software by the Click

Looking for icon creators? Screen savers? Civilization building games? Interface adjusters? Tons of other stuff that makes your Mac unique and fun to use? You can get them really cheap on a Macintosh shareware Website near you.

Yes, that's right. Shareware Websites (which often are cross platform) offer an unbelievably huge amount of software either free of charge (freeware) or at a very low price (shareware). Shareware is software that is distributed free on a trial basis, but for which you must pay a fee after a trial period. Some developers offer shareware versions of their programs with a built-in expiration date, which means you can try it for a month or so, but if you want to keep it, you'll have to fork up the fee.

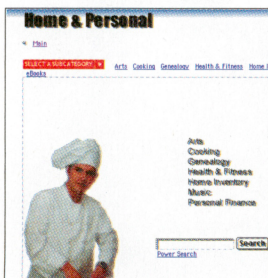
While it may seem that you need to spend hundreds of dollars for software to accomplish certain specific tasks, often you can download a shareware or freeware program from the Internet that will suit your needs at a fraction of the cost. Be honest and send in your shareware fee if you continue to use the software, as often small developers depend on this income. Freeware is, of course, free.

All Mac All the Time

Macupdate (www.macupdate.com) is a very simple, straightforward site consisting of several pages of links to various demo, shareware, and freeware programs. Each entry is explained in a succinct

one-line description. The Hot Picks section designates some of the most popular and useful programs. Everything is arranged in a chart format that lets you see when the program was posted, the number of downloads, and the size of the download. A menu at the top of each page gives you a variety of choices such as New Releases, Mac OS 9, Most popular, and others. You can also choose by categories such as Busi-

ness, Education, Internet, Multimedia and Design, System Software, and others. The category pages tend to be more stylish featuring a large image at the left and a menu of all the subcategories of software at the right, as well as a listing of new releases. This is a huge and dense site at which you are likely to find any kind of software your little heart desires. And more.



Purely Mac

This Website is not fooling around. When you land on the home page of Pure Mac (www.pure-mac.com), you know you're in Mac shareware heaven. The home page consists of an



orderly chart full of categories and links. While you may not be specifically familiar with all the programs listed, you do not have to be a rocket scientist to navigate your way through a set of primary listings and sublists. It's easy to look at and has cute little illustrations accompanying the listings. And if you're looking for something specific, you can also do a keyword search.

Tucows

From the elegantly laid out chart of Macintosh software to the two cow heads at the top of the page, Tucows

(<http://mac.tucows.com/macintosh.html>) is one of the most popular sites for Mac shareware, demos, and freeware. It

has a complete Mac section where you can find software in categories such as Security, Networking, Server Tools, as well as the usual entertainment, system, utility, education and other categories.



Up In Smoke

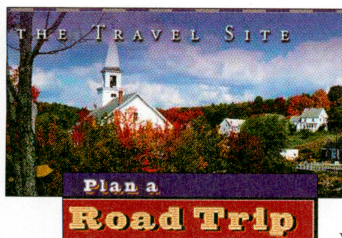
If you or somebody close to you has been losing the war against cigarettes, point them to QuitSmoking.com. The site is rife with information, articles, and products — from nicotine patches and gum, to herbal alternatives and thought-changing products — to help you claim victory. The site also serves as a stomping ground for folks to chat with and email one another for support.

www.quitsmoking.com,
770-346-9222

Resolutionary Ideas

Upon reflection, you'll hopefully consider this past year a good one. But. (The inevitable conjunction.) Maybe you've had a tugging urge to make a change — something as slight as a new haircut, or as monumental as giving up smoking. Let the Internet help you hone in on a New Year's resolution for 2001. This is your year. I can feel it.

Destination Anywhere



"Once a year, go someplace you've never been before," says the Dalai Lama. Before you plan, remember the words of another, widely unknown sage (ahem, me): You needn't go too far from home. In other words, make it a road trip. At RandMcNally.com, you can plan a getaway from start to finish, including directions, lodging, and the weather you should expect once you get there. It's free

to sign up at this site, but expect to spend some pre-vacation dollars at the Travel Store, complete with maps and guidebooks, luggage, globes, and travel journals.
www.randmcnally.com, 800-333-0136

Calm Down

If you're among those who feel burdened by stress on a regular basis (who isn't?!), find relief for your anxiety this year. Breathe deeply and navigate to Stress-Less.com. Complete with a Stress Quiz, Stress Facts, and 1,300 stress reduction products to meditate on — including massage tools, soothing music, and aromatherapy kits — this one's a browse you don't want to miss. You'll find yourself on a personal journey to relaxation in no time.

www.stress-less.com, 800-555-3783

The Bod Squad

This site trumpets a collective message from real folks who've jumped the hurdle to a fitter body. "It's about life, and yours will never be the same," says Allen Bieber, a Body-for-Lifer who lost over 100 lbs. on the plan. Based on *The New York Times* bestseller, *Body-for-LIFE*, by Bill Phillips, the site offers inspiration from "champions" who've incorporated the strategies — a reasonable amount of weight and aerobic training, and a balanced meal plan to enhance that training — into their daily living. This destination also sports a Q&A section with Bill Phillips, links to purchase the *Body-for-LIFE* book and EAS supplement products, recipes, downloadable daily progress reports, and a guestbook for visitors to write in their struggles and triumphs.

www.bodyforlife.com, 800-749-5580



A Novel Idea

Good advice: Read more this year. Oprah's not the only one with reading suggestions, though her recommendations are listed at WordsWorth.com, a site that hosts information regarding the goings-on in the publishing world. Search Food for the Mind for Vitamin H, or "history told well," or Brain Candy, a.k.a. "good, fun reads," among others. After snooping around for a bit, take a stab at the Weekly Contest, which asks that you identify a book by its first or last line — the winner is drawn from all of the correct entries and is awarded a free book.
www.wordsworth.com,
800-899-2202

Mac Resolves

Stick to New Year's Resolutions with Your Mac's Help

Something tells me this is the year to set do-able resolutions. If you're like me and millions of others who make and break annual resolutions, maybe it's time to look at changing the kind of resolutions we make, rather than threatening to not make any at all.

Read on for some resolutions that have a greater potential of being accomplished — thanks to your trusty Mac.

Resolution: "I'll figure out what to do with all of my digital pictures."

1. Many people feel plagued by the task of organizing their digital pictures for storage. ACDSee for Mac, by ACD Systems International, is a superb program for this purpose. Unlike some programs, this one is not a leech on your system: Version 1.5, which should be ready for release by press time, requires 8MB of RAM and 6MB of hard drive space, QuickTime 4 or later, 266 MHz or faster, and Mac OS 8.6 or later. It beautifully displays high-resolution images at a high speed. More importantly, you can effortlessly browse

By Cathy Parise

through images and organize collections into folders with drag-and-drop filing, just one of the program's rapid file management utilities. ACDSee for Mac not only supports over forty of the most popular image formats, including JPEG, GIF, TIFF, and MPEG, it also exports to ten of these image formats so you can, for example, easily export a JPEG file to Photoshop. You can also print individual images with names and descriptions, or a sheet of an entire collection's images. Also, you can save images and thumbnail contact sheets in HTML format or as print preview JPEGs. The Slide Show feature advances selected images automatically and the Desktop Picture feature lets you smoothly change your desktop to display any of your own images.

2. To share digital pictures with friends and family without printing, which is a costly venture at best, check out iTools



on Apple's Website at www.apple.com. Click the iTools tab to register (it's free). When you log in, your iDisk — 20MB of free storage space — pops up like a folder on your desktop, and you can put items in it as you would any other file folder. Simple. Apple's Internet servers offers 20MB for free, and you can additionally buy up to 400MB for \$1 per MB, per year, in bundles of 50, 100, 200, or 400MB. You can store and share digital pictures, as well as import them into your own iTools homepage. Instructions for setting up your iDisk, your homepage, and a photo album that can serve as your homepage, are easy and fun. When you have your very own homepage.mac.com/(your name here) address, give it to friends and family so they can visit to see your latest pictures.

ACDSee for Mac, \$40 CD-ROM, www.acdsystems.com, 800-579-5309

Resolution: "I resolve to get everyone together for family activities."

If you ever attempted to keep a family schedule on a typi-

APC introduces the best protection available for your Mac.

8 million computer users can't be wrong about APC power protection

Don't let a lightning storm destroy your Mac system in the blink of an eye. Your hard drive, modem and RAM are all at risk, not to mention peripherals like your zip drive, scanner, monitor and printer. Rely on an APC Back-UPS Pro® to save your investments from high voltage surges.

APC power protection also provides clean, continuous power that lets you function without frustrating interruptions, unlike cheap power strips that don't prevent any of the power problems that can cause keyboard lock-ups, systems crashes, and lost Internet connections.

And if your system is ever damaged by a surge, even lightning, APC's Lifetime Equipment Protection Policy will pay up to \$25,000 to replace your equipment.

** (see policy for details)*

Discover why 8,000,000 customers trust in APC's Legendary Reliability and protect your Mac system with an APC power protection unit today.



An APC Back-UPS Pro 500 USB provides:

- Emergency battery power for continuous uptime to help save your data through brief power outages
- Auto-shutdown software that saves your files and data, even when you're away from your computer
- Audible and visible alarms alert you to power events as they occur
- \$25,000 Equipment Protection guarantee
- 2 year comprehensive warranty
- iMac colored configurable speaker guards to match your computing environment



APC Back-UPS Pro® 500:
"APC's latest plugs into a USB port, making it completely painless to protect your PC from power snafus and electrical spikes."
- PC Computing 4/99



APC
Legendary Reliability™



Enter to win a clear APC Back-UPS Pro® 500 for your Mac!

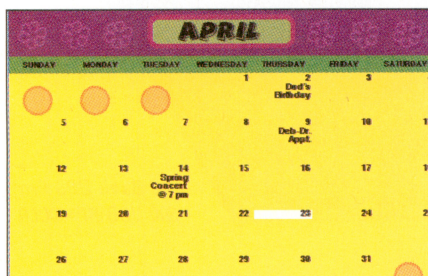
Enter to win APC's legendary power protection for your Mac, a \$179.99 value! All entrants will also receive an "Are You at Risk" Kit. (See APC's Web site for complete promotion details)

Enter now: Visit <http://promo.apcc.com> Key Code wv679z • Call 888-289-APCC x4025 • Fax 401-788-2797

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cal monthly calendar that hangs in the kitchen, you probably found that it never had enough space for everyone's activities. If you put your calendar on your Mac, you can easily delete and add events. Here are a couple of ways to keep the family calendar in your computer so everyone will use it.

1. AppleWorks, standard on many Macs, has calendar templates. The AppleWorks 5 template is a monthly calendar. Enter the month and year on top and it updates to the correct days and dates for that month. You can adjust box sizes for days according to how much space you need for your family. Print one to hang in a central location, and one for each family member to carry. If you prefer a day-by-day calendar, AppleWorks 6 has a Weekly Planner template in the Web templates for Everyone. It is simplistic, allowing you to enter events and appointments between 7 A.M. and 11 P.M. for each day of the week. Enter the date for



the starting day of the week and it updates the rest of the week. Finally, color code each person's activities, and print it out for everyone.

2. More suitable for the busy, technologically well-connected family is the Internet. Many Internet sites, such as Excite and Yahoo, offer users a calendar feature perfect for family scheduling. With Internet-based calendars, family members can access the calendar from any computer. Children can enter important school events from a school

computer, and Mom and Dad can enter appointments from work — you don't have to be at home to check what's scheduled. You can even set it to send reminders of activities or special days, including birthdays and anniversaries. In addition to keeping track of daily schedules and important dates, these calendars feature To Do lists to remind you of obligations, and the kids of their chores. Your only problem is making sure everyone checks and inputs their events. Make sure you print your calendar at least once a week for those frustrating times when the Internet is down.

Resolution: "I will itemize and organize things around the house."

Think there's a black hole lurking inside your house, sucking up all your important information? Since the computer stays put, it's a pretty safe place to store things, and once you understand how to use a database, it offers many solutions for organizing household information. If you use AppleWorks, there are assistants and templates to get you started in lots of areas. FileMaker Pro, the big brother of AppleWorks, is a professionally robust database that also has templates to start you on your way. FileMaker Pro is a dedicated database, while AppleWorks simplifies the database and provides fewer options. Both work well, depending on how complex you want to get. So, what can you do with a database?

1. Create an inventory of household items and make a copy for your insurance agent. Include digital pictures of items whenever possible. The FileMaker Pro Home Inventory template is elaborate and provides space for pictures but requires that you input the names of the rooms in your house. The AppleWorks template is a spreadsheet and doesn't have a place for pictures, but is easy to fill out with many



Home Inventory

Entry Year(s)
 Enter Year of Purchase in FOUR Digits
 from, i.e.: 1997, 1998 Age will be
 calculated automatically.

Inventory Date: Feb 25, 2000
 Have insurance for: \$0.00

Kitchen

Item	Brand, Model and Serial Number	Replacement Cost	Year of Purchase	Age (in Years)
Art and Room Decor				
Brooms and Mops				
Cabinets				
Chairs				
Chairs				
Dishes and Silverware				
Dishwasher				
Electrical Appliances				
Floor Coverings				

common household items.

2. Make a file of your family medical records. You may also want to do this for your pets so you have a record of rabies certificates, vaccinations, and when shots are needed. The AppleWorks Family Medical Records template is a simplified database that's easy to use and has spaces for major information (e.g., doctor's name, symptoms, treatment, medication prescribed). The FileMaker Pro Family Medical Records template is only available on versions before version 5. It offers the same fields for information as the AppleWorks template, but you have to move between three different layouts — Medical Need & Provider, Treatment & Diagnosis, and Insurance & Billing — to enter the data.

3. List videos, cassettes, DVDs, and music and software CDs. Make separate files for music, movies, and software, or put them together in the same database and sort them by category when you need a list. Both AppleWorks and FileMaker Pro offer the same basic template.

check it out...

AppleWorks User Group (AWUG) is a place to find tips, techniques, and hints to get the most out of your AppleWorks experience. And there are templates to accompany your personal projects.

www.awug.org

Both are easy to use, but the AppleWorks template's layout is more linear.

4. Make a list of information for credit cards, licenses, and membership or user

Resolution: "I'll organize family recipes and share them with extended family."

1. Using your word processor is easiest. Add a few tabs and indents, and you'll have a clean, good-looking recipe book. You can even set up a table of contents and an index. If you're an advanced user, you can create links between your table of contents and the recipes so that they're only one click away. If you don't have time to create links, all word processors have the Find feature, which is a big help if you know the name of the recipe.

2. AppleWorks and FileMaker Pro both offer recipe templates in database format.

[illegible]

The Computer Cookbook, \$20 CD-ROM,
www.computercookbook.net, 770-935-1854

Tell us what you think!

www.machome.com/janfeedback

3. Excite and Yahoo both offer a feature for storing names and numbers in their calendar program. Caveat: If you can't access your Internet page, you're in trouble. Keep a printed backup. And have a Happy New Year! **MNJ**

Apple Orchard

District 214, the second largest high school district in Illinois, was recognized for its technology leadership by the National School Boards Association in October. No doubt contributing to this success was the 12,000-student high school district's recent \$2.43 million purchase of Apple products, including over

By Carolyn Blackburn

1800 iMacs and 300 iBooks. "We

have multiple users on a machine in a given day, no standardized suite of software, and a mandate to engage students in their learning," says Ken Wiseman, District 214's

Instructional Computer Coordinator. "Each of these needs is best served by Macs."

Wiseman, a veteran teacher (20 years), and Keith Mann, Director of Media and Networking Services for the district, have worked together since their first technology implementation for

District 214 in 1994. For them, Macs have remained the obvious choice for classroom and administrative use. "Many educators/businessmen mistakenly equate the business environment with education — they are different, and require different types of computers," explains Wiseman. "We feel that Macs are more robust for the educational environment."

On the administration side, Wiseman and Mann anticipate video conferencing, Web-based information communication to parents, and quite possibly, paperless schools. For students, the Macs will serve to hone creativity, online learning, and technology skills. But most importantly, the Mac purchase allows for "the ability to address the learning styles of all students, while providing additional means of expression by the students," say Wiseman. "We now have the capacity to make this dream a reality."

www.dist214.k12.il.us



Ken Wiseman

Senior Sources

Folks over 50 should know about a wonderful Website that caters to their needs, called SeniorNet. Designed for computer-using seniors, SeniorNet's mission is to "provide older adults education for and access to computer technology to enhance their lives and enable them to share their knowledge and wisdom." Complete with articles,



discussion groups, such as book clubs and computer Q&A, forums to share ideas and life experiences, and links to other online resources, this site is a must-explore. One doesn't have to join, but membership — \$30 per year, \$55 for two years, or \$75 for three years — has its perks, including discounts on computer- and non-computer-related products and services, and access

Tell Us What You Think!

This month *MacHome* introduces Senior Sources, an installment dedicated to our senior readers. Write us at **sources@machome.com** to let us know what you think, and where you'd like us to lead you in the future.

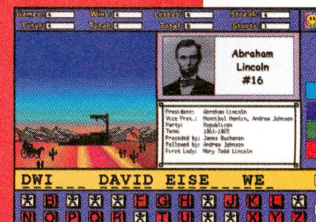
to computer classes exclusively held for seniors at SeniorNet Learning Centers across the U.S.

www.seniornet.org, 415-495-4990

Share & Tell

Presidents' Day isn't a holiday folks traditionally get excited about, but this year, start preparing early. Ken Winograd has developed a shareware program designed particularly for schools and teachers, called *Presidents3000*. In the tradition of Hangman, the game promises fun and learning. As *Presidents3000* ensures knowledge of past presidents — including their vice presidents, first ladies, and terms of office — *States3000* will have its players in the know about the 50 territories that make up the U.S. Learn state flowers, capitals, and birds in similar Hangman style. Each game sports several difficulty levels, non-violent graphics, and digitized sound effects. Visit the Website for details, including registration and site license information.

www.winograd.com

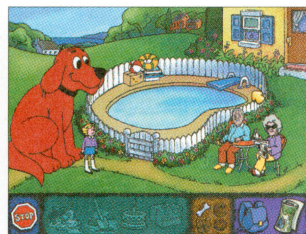


Clifford Thinking Adventures

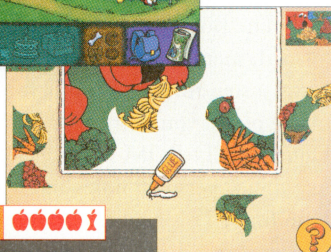
Clifford is here to encourage your kids to pay closer attention. *Clifford Thinking Adventures*, which emphasizes the ability to observe and remember, is as witty and entertaining as the popular *Clifford the Big Red Dog* series of children's books.

In this story, Clifford's throwing himself a birthday party. Players learn map-reading skills as they navigate the clumsy, but well-meaning, house-size dog around town on errands to prepare. Clifford's clumsiness causes problems that he solves through games that test your child's ability to count, to manipulate the mouse, and to recognize shapes and colors.

At a busy intersection, Clifford accidentally causes a traffic jam. Players help him fix the mess by guiding cars to their appropriate destinations. The activity tests your child's ability to follow



directions, but younger tots may not possess the fine mouse control it takes to manipulate Clifford through the maze.



rating ★★★★★

\$20, Scholastic
Ages 4-6
800-724-6527
www.scholastic.com

What makes the game a true "thinking" adventure is its consistent memory-sharpening

challenges. For example, Clifford's grumpy neighbors will let him take a bath in their pool only if he can offer them something cool to eat in return. Kids have to remember that Clifford was offered free ice cream treats in a previous activity, and must go back to pick them up in order to move on.

The game is easy to navigate, which is great for younger children who are just cutting their teeth on basic computer skills, with easy-to-understand instructions and a fun, interactive environment. For example, the cursor arrow sparkles every time it moves over an interactive feature, prompting a child to click on it.

Like the book series, this game not only challenges children, but also teaches how interdependent we all are, and how rewarding it is to lend a helping paw.

— Howard Levy

LEGO My Style Kindergarten

LEGO brings to mind primary colors, simple shapes, and creativity. Cheerful landscapes set the tone in *LEGO My Style Kindergarten*, which carries on the tradition, at least when it comes to colors and shapes. "My style" means it offers activities led by characters representing different learning styles — Jimmy Nasium for kinetic learners, Wordy Wanda for verbal learners, etc. Each character hosts an activity in four learning environments — language arts, math, music, and art. Kids can choose the activities they like most, presumably the ones that suit their individual styles.

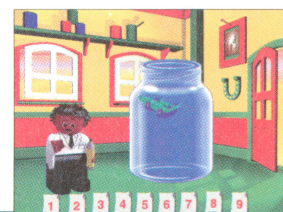
Skills are presented in a kid-pleasing atmosphere. Learn to write letters by touching a honey dipper to fluttering bees. Learn math by adding and subtracting fireflies in a jar. Paint blocks and read the names of colors.

The characters are always encouraging and offer accolades (though I can't be the only parent who wishes LEGO Media would have selected a more appropriate, K word-of-praise than "killer" — kind, kingly, or knowledgable are preferable — as formal words, rather than slang, work a lot better for this age group.)

While LEGO scores points for some fun ways to teach basic skills, this software falls short due to its lack of depth. There is only one level; once children master these skills, they have outgrown the software. Kids might also grow tired of *LEGO My Style* simply because it never changes. The scrambled picture always results in the same scene when unscrambled. There are, at most, a dozen connect-the-dot pictures, and maybe ten animals to match to their sounds.

So while it's certainly colorful, the software doesn't provide half the creativity that comes with a bucket of old-fashioned LEGO pieces.

— Sandy Amann John



rating ★★

\$20, LEGO Media
Ages 4 - 6
800-453-4652
www.lego.com

The Complete National Geographic – 111 Years

It's likely you know someone who subscribes to *National Geographic*. If you don't think so, try this: Poke around the homes of the next five people you visit, and I guarantee you'll find the vibrant publication at least once — atop a coffee table, stuffed between two pillows on the couch, or on a nightstand. *National Geographic* has become a household name, and for good reason — around since 1888, its pages have consistently served as a window to the world.

Now those pages, every last one of them (from 1888 through 1999) — including over 184,000 photographs and more than 9,500 articles — are available on 31 CD-ROMs for viewing that world from your Mac. Many folks understandably prefer handling the printed word, and wouldn't dream of recycling their *National Geographic* collections. But others interested in freeing up some space on the bookshelf should know that not much has been lost in this virtual translation.

In fact, something has been gained: This set hosts a search engine that gathers what you're looking for throughout the course of 111 years. *National Geographic* has always served as a reference tool, but this set transforms the traditional, trusted hammer into a power tool for families and students. Perform a search of the entire CD-ROM set — you can also search by decade — to gather ideas for a research paper on great white sharks, and 4 articles from 1968 to 1997 appear. Each result has a Related Subjects field with further ideas, such as Tasman Sea and Marine biology, to help widen your study. Perhaps you'd like to learn a bit of New Orleans history before you visit (you know you've always wanted to make it down for Mardi Gras). Simply scour the set and 11 articles from 1930 to 1998 will appear.

With a bit of practice, you'll be navigating this software

effortlessly. After inserting the CD-ROM you're interested in browsing, such as the one that includes issues from 1966 through 1969, the Cover Gallery appears. It is the starting

page on each CD, and hosts *National Geographic* covers and article topics from each of the 111 years. If you're interested in exploring a particular article from the January 1969 issue, for example, you can link to it from the Cover Gallery or from the List of Articles option, which lists all of the articles on the present CD-ROM. The latter option works more efficiently.

There is also an Articles Viewed option, a nifty feature if you're doing research and you'd like a reference list of the articles you've searched, in alphabetical or chronological order.

The Bookmark feature is also worth mentioning because it takes you a step further. With it you can save places you've traveled to throughout the CD-ROM set, as well as type and save personal notes about your findings. This feature also hosts a Go There button to link you with bookmarked destinations. If the destination is on the CD-ROM presently

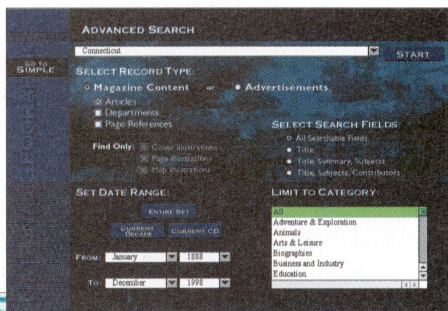
installed, you'll seamlessly arrive at the article's page. If the article in Bookmarks is from a month and year not included on the present CD, you'll have to change discs.

An unfortunate hassle in dealing with this splendid set is having to frequently change discs, which are fortunately color-coded (1960s are green, 1980s are blue, etc.). But with so much valuable information, this nuisance is acceptable. Also, reading the text (mostly black letters on a white background) on your Mac might pose eye

strain for some. I found that moving the contrast button to the right made the letters appear sharpest, and therefore easiest to read.

You can't go wrong — it's *National Geographic*. If you accepted my challenge from the beginning of this review, I forgot to mention — check the desk, the car, the loo — you'll find one. If not, this set has "treasured gift" written all over it.

— Carolyn Blackburn



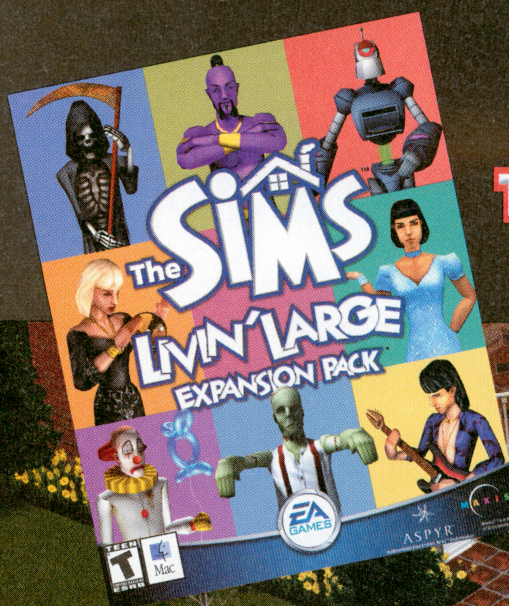
rating ★★★★★

\$100, National Geographic
800-437-5521
www.nationalgeographic.com



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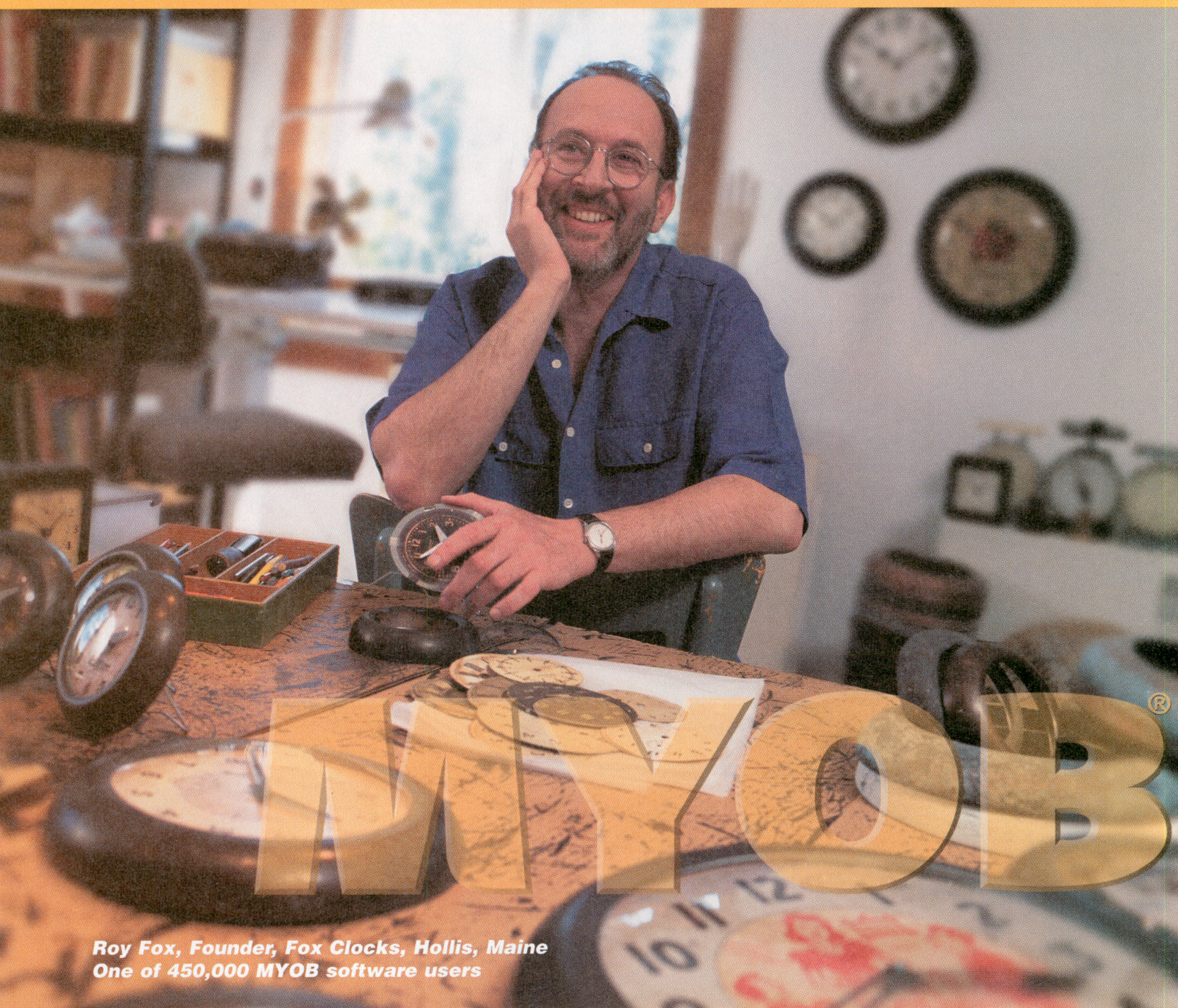
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DESIGNED FOR THE WAY YOU WORK

I'd rather create clocks than invoices.

If I wanted to keep books all day, I'd have been an accountant.



Roy Fox, Founder, Fox Clocks, Hollis, Maine
One of 450,000 MYOB software users

MYOB

**Small Business.
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800.322.MYOB
myob.com/us

MYOB software is the simplest, most powerful, most complete solution for managing my company on the Mac, from the day to day to the bottom line.

Antique frames. Quartz movements. That's my business.

MYOB software works for me.

Getting to Know You

The Online Community is in Full Bloom

We all know that the Internet is a vast field from which to pluck and gather a wild bouquet of information. We navigate this field with our keyboards, and view it on our monitors, skipping and reveling in our solitary searches. There seems to be nobody around, and we like it that way. Most of the time.

Every now and then we feel the need to reach out and communicate with folks in the field, over yonder, but we're apprehensive. Many of us have so often overlooked that the Internet is a multi-layered community, pulsating with life, that we're hesitant to shed our wallflower images. Read on to learn some dance steps, and get swaying with other life forms in the field. You're really not alone. In fact, you're only a click away from over 300 million people.

Support System

You'd love some advice, a helping hand, perhaps a few words of wisdom. Dollars to doughnuts — from overcoming a gambling problem to maintaining weight loss — someone on the Internet has been there, done that. With the guarantee of at least one online community per topic, let's explore, for example, how others have gotten out of debt, as you'd like to (short of somebody taking over your bill payments).



By Carolyn Blackburn

First do a search from your homepage or from any search engine, such as Google or Lycos. Type in "debt," and the main result turns up National Debt. Your debt isn't likely that large, so narrow your search to "personal debt." Much better. Poke around until you find a site that piques your interest, much like www.womenswire.com/money, piqued mine.

Good buzzwords for interaction with other folks are "chat" and "talk." Talk Money, listed at the top of the

WomensWire homepage, ensures the living, breathing support you're looking for. Just click on Talk Money to get to the area of the site where you can either seek advice or act as a mentor. Within this section, you might want to take advantage of the Message Board.

Message boards are all over the Internet. They provide you with an opportunity to ask specific questions of like-minded people. Under Debt Management, you could post a message seeking advice from other people who have diminished their debt. In no time, you'll receive responses — some heartfelt, some business-like — that will point you in a new direction. Hello savings. Goodbye debt.

Love Match

You've heard all about it; love can be found online. Skeptical? Just believe it, and embrace that you might soon become part of a growing statistic. If you're a decent judge





of character, dive into the deep end. (If you're not, proceed with a good friend in tow, to act as a filter against nuts.) Your soul mate might be living on the other side of the world — without the Internet, you'll never find him, or her.

Again, your first step is to search. Type in "romance" or "relationships," and you'll get lots of results. You must be proactive in this arena (before Ms. Wrong scoops up your Mr. Right), which means one of two things: Get thyself into a chat room or post a personal ad.

Unlike a tangible social event, where you somehow find yourself locked into a conversation about Martha Stewart's white sale at the local K-Mart, you can guiltlessly walk away from a chat room. If you don't like the chatting experience, simply log out. (But my bet is that you'll get a kick out of it.) Most major chat rooms, such as Yahoo.com's, have several categories, including Romance. Subcategories under Romance at Yahoo include 40's Love, Single Parents, and Asian Connections. Perhaps you'd like to find a couple of local candidates — if you're in Chicago, for example, create a new room, Single in Chicago, to gather and chat with folks in your area.

To really get yourself out there, throw together a personal ad and have it posted at a singles Website, such as Match.com, or AmericanSingles.com. The key to success is an honest appraisal of what you have to offer and what you seek. If you've already met someone to live happily ever after with — but they don't yet realize their possible destiny — take advantage of Secret Admirer.com. At this site you can anonymously write a love letter to somebody you've got a crush on — if

this, in turn, prompts him or her to write back stating a similar crush on you, SecretAdmirer will send you both a message that you've met your match. See, love *doesn't* stink.

Friendly Interests

Perhaps you've already found a doting significant other, but they just won't go birding with you. Or read and discuss a book with you. Or home brew a batch of beer with you. Or, well, you get the idea. You'd love to find some friends with whom to partake and strengthen a hobby or activity with. Where else to find such people than on the Internet? Whether you're interested in hanging out with people in your community who share similar interests, or if you're inclined to pursue a solo hobby, but would like to share your experiences with others via your Mac, you'll find fellow enthusiasts online.

Let's say you want to dance. Do a search for "dance studios (your town here)" or the particular type of dance you're interested in, such as "swing dancing." A search for Swing Dance San Francisco brought back results for dance classes and local big band jazz musicians, as well as a couple of Lists, which are also rampant on the Internet. Lists are used as a means of bringing people together, allowing them to share resources and receive guidance. At www.LindyList.com (Lindy is a popular form of Swing dancing), for example, there's information regarding where to go for classes and swing dancing delights in the Bay Area.

check it out...

Looking to buy a used car? Don't expect the best deal to jump at you from the pages of your local newspaper. Go to this site for local classified listings. Type in your zip code and start shopping.

www.abracat.com

Anyone Out There?

Indeed there is. (But they're not inside

did you know...

If you didn't already know about it, you've gotta visit AskJeeves.com, a great site for finding quick answers to burning questions. Type in a question — how many films has Woody Allen made? how many miles long is the Mississippi River? who is this Steve Jobs guy? (c'mon!) — and results will appear to link you to the appropriate information on the Web.



AskJeeves

So what about community? From the Ask Jeeves start page, click on Answer Point, the place where you can ask and answer questions. Rather than ask a factual question that can be easily answered by Jeeves, this is a good place to ask life questions — how do you treat a knee injury? how is the rental market in Boston? where online might I expand my record collection? It's a snap. You'll receive email notification when others have posted answers your questions.

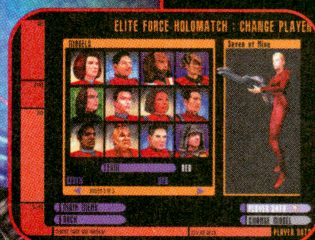
Also, check out Topica.com, another site for friendly communication between online peers, complete with newsletters, tips, and email discussions of your favorite topics.

www.askjeeves.com

www.topica.com

your Mac, so stop tapping on the screen.) They are out there, at large, in the virtual field, waiting for you to reach out. And reach out you should. Maybe you think you've never been an official member of a club or organization — think again. If you're online, you're a flower amongst many in the glorious field. Welcome. **MHJ**

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Family Ties

Global Mac Games, a Mac-only Website (literally, as visitors from other platforms will be politely turned away), is a common ground where Mac gamers can go to converse, compete, and report game results. The

site currently supports 15 different games, including *Age of Empires*, *Madden NFL 2000*, and *Unreal Tournament*. After Mac gamers sign up for a free account, they



can talk in a chatroom, post to an online message board, view game standings, read the latest gaming news from around the Web, and join or create online teams.
www.globalmacgames.com

By Carolyn Blackburn

Cheat Sheet

Who'd want to cheat on Lara Croft? Well, the idea is actually irresistible. Straight from Aspyr, read on for tips from the Tomb.

In **Tomb Raider: The Last Revelation**, make sure that Lara is facing perfectly north.

You might be able to do this more easily by hanging on a ledge that faces exactly north, so that the pointer on the compass is aimed at 'n.'



When she is, your compass needle will be accordingly transparent, or grayed out, which means you can proceed to get the cheats.

To get infinite items: While facing north, go to your inventory screen, and then choose the small Medi-pack. Successively press and hold the 'g,' 'u,' 'n,' and 's' keys, and then release them all at the same time.

Enjoy infinite weapons/ammo: First do the previous cheat. Then close and reopen the inventory screen. Select the bigger Medi-pack this time around. This time do what you did with "guns," and instead spell out "weapons."

Skippin' a level: Still facing north, go to the game loading option. This time press and hold the letters "help." Then go back to the game. Have fun!

www.aspyr.com, 888-212-7797

Tell Us What You Think!

This month *MacHome* introduces **Cheat Sheet**, a monthly installment featuring secret tips and tricks of your favorite games. Write us at games@machome.com to let us know what you think, and which games you'd like us to cover in the future. Also, let us know what you think of this issue by visiting us at www.machome.com/janfeedback

Exile on Mac Street

It's coming. You've played the epics, *Myst* and *Riven*. Now Presto Studios has announced that the next chapter of the premier *Myst* adventure games will be delivered to the Mac at the same time as the PC version. *Myst III: Exile* promises to extend the *Myst* legend by advancing the technologies of the first two games with full 360° spherical views. *Exile* will run properly under Mac OS X if you're going to upgrade to the new operating system early. Look for the release of *Exile* in March, 2001. Can't wait that long to learn more? Read our exclusive, inside-Presto coverage of *Myst III: Exile* next month.
www.myst3.com



Action!

Saitek announced a new game pad in November,

adding to the company's prolific line of game gear. The Action Pad is a left-handed controller that is suitable for strategy and fast-

paced action games. Designed to take the place of keyboard controls, which generally slow gamers down, this controller promises to perform seamlessly in combination with handy mouse work during gameplay.

www.saitek.com, 800-452-4377



You Are King. You Rule.

MAJESTY

The Fantasy Kingdom Sim



Use your economic might to hire heroes from among 16 different classes. Reward their efforts handsomely to complete 19 royal quests.



Your foes are many. Your enemies have chosen to enlist the services of 32 different types of monsters, each more dangerous than the next.

Majesty: The Fantasy Kingdom Sim. Fortify and enhance your castle with over 30 different building types, each one with its own unique strategic and economic benefits. Watch your kingdom come alive as its growing infrastructure begins to attract new inhabitants, both good and evil. Behold the power of magic. Master its heady powers and it will serve your kingdom well. You are King. You Rule.

"Majesty: The Fantasy Kingdom Sim is one of the hottest strategy/sim titles available this holiday season."

Jay Swartzfeger, MacCentral.com



MACPLAY™
www.macplay.com

Risk II

One of my fondest childhood memories is of playing weekend-long sessions of Risk. My friend Travis and I would pull out the giant board and its 10,000 little pieces, and hunker down for what we knew would be an interminable battle for world domination. Then, when Sunday rolled around, we'd wipe the crust from our eyes, make a pot of coffee, and begin the long, tedious process of cleaning up.

Thanks to the computer age, kids nowadays can enjoy a single game of Risk in 15 minutes or less. In *Risk II*, Hasbro, the original developer of the game, has added a couple of spicy items to bring us a more zesty Napoleon-

esque war game, including new graphics, new maps, and even multi-player support. Now, Travis and I can simply send each other an email and begin an online

round in no time flat, sans little plastic roman numerals. The underlying strategy and fun (minus clean up) remain intact.

Fortunately, little has changed from the basic play mechanics of traditional Risk. You still

buy armies, distribute them amongst your territories, and essentially try to take over the world. For the sake of those two *I*'s at the end of the name, however, Hasbro has deemed fit to add a few twists to traditional gameplay. There are some new rules to use if you feel adventurous, such as the ability to resolve all battles at once, but for the most part, the new gameplay brings imbalance to an almost perfect game.

Regardless, there's still plenty of old-style Risk here. Travis and I could easily waste a weekend on this game: Probably not a good thing for our girlfriends.

— Alex Handy



rating ★★★★★

\$30, MacSoft
800-229-2714
www.wizardworks.com/macsoft

Return of the Incredible Machine: Contraptions

This game would thrill Wile E. Coyote, the beloved Looney Toons rascal whose ingenious gadgets never quite worked. With over 200 puzzle-oriented contraptions of varying degrees of difficulty, *Return of The Incredible Machine: Contraptions*, will have you feeling like an ace engineer one moment, and like a clever coyote who just can't catch that fast bird the next.

Each puzzle screen shows a partially built contraption and a box containing the necessary components — ropes, pulleys, balls, etc. — to achieve a given goal. In Yellow Brick Path, you must "get Newton the mouse into his hole," and in Candle Vertigo, you must "light the candle." Throughout the game, you'll either love or hate the instructional voiceovers of the "professor." His hints — "holes in the floor are a blast," for example — become harder to dissect as your level of play progresses.

Contraptions can be played as a solo brain twister, or as a two-player romp. No thanks to the useless manual, another MacHome gamer and I figured out how to play a two-person round, and had some fun racing to see who would be the first to solve a few puzzles. Pick a time limit for each person's turn, and within that time try to solve the gizmo with one item from the component box. Successively, each turn taken allows use of the previous tools picked, plus one, until somebody reigns victor. (I let him win.)

Alas, this clever title has a couple of drawbacks. First, there seems to be no conceivable way to skip puzzles you're stuck on, which proves frustrating. And within some contraptions, we found slight inconsistencies — when my fellow employee tried for the same success that I acquired using a hot air balloon, he was met with failure.

Although it's not quite the "Super Genius" that Wile E. is, this is a superb puzzle game that will provide hours of fun for blossoming engineers of any age.

— Carolyn Blackburn



rating ★★★★★

\$30, Sierra
800-757-7707
www.sierra.com

Rallies and Revolutions

With this duo of driving games, you'll be able to test your skill in two unlikely, though equally muddy, scenarios. Choose to pilot cave vehicles through various historical tracks, or drive present day trucks through numerous off-road racing adventures. Start your engines.

Cro-Mag Rally is a kart-style racing game, during which you drive small go-carts with an over-the-shoulder perspective. *Cro-Mag* isn't a simulation—it is an animated and creative style. Instead of sticking to the rules like a sim would force you to do, you're able to use various bones, birds, and other primitive weapons to gain an advantage.

4x4 Evolution is a total simulation of truck racing. Starting the game, you'll be given \$30,000 to pick your car from all the major manufacturers. Ford, Nissan, Chevy, Dodge, Mitsubishi, and even Lexus, to name a few, have licensed their 2000 and 2001 trucks for this game.

Under the agreement, the statistics and information about each truck is perfect. And they all look beautiful, reflecting the game's surroundings on their shiny hoods. The downside to this hyperrealism is that the truck makers couldn't bear to see their beauties crashed, even in a game. So while you can (and will) collide with all sorts of obstacles, your truck will just bounce back.

The first thing that you'll need for each game is a good gamepad; find one with an analog stick for fine control. With the proper tools intact, both games play well, though differently. *Cro-Mag* takes a light touch, and feels a little faster than *Evolution*. With a tiny turning radius, you'll whip around obstacles, and often into them. *4x4 Evolution* drove well after an arduous controller setup process; the tracks served as a fine reward after overcoming preliminary problems.

Both games excel in the looks department, in different

ways. *Cro-Mag* resembles a cartoon with simple art and aesthetics. It has a unique style, and it just looks fun. *4x4 Evolution* is the most realistic-looking racing game to ever hit the Mac. Trucks kick up mud, headlights create an eerie glow, and birds gently flap away when you get close.

Multiplayer shines in each game. *Cro-Mag* lets you play with two people on one computer or with six people on a network. Game types include variations on tag, where you chase or are chased, classic racing, and a free-for-all battle

mode. Projectiles and weapons add to the atmosphere; if it's not good enough to be faster than your friends, you can bop them on the head a few times, too. In *Evolution*, you can race with eight drivers from around the world.

Upgrade your truck with winnings in the single-player levels, and take your high-performance racer online. Nothing says "grudge match" quite like a souped-up Ford racing a tricked-out Chevy. Here's to the simple pleasures in life.

But all is not perfect with either game. *Cro-Mag*'s single-player mode requires you to gather spearheads while you race. You can't advance unless you've found all of them. The addition of this gathering element is a bit confusing, but it fits with the

theme of your primitive character. While everything else about *4x4 Evolution* excels, it's disappointing that cars don't crash. On one level, it's easy to overlook this omission because the game plays so well.

But because *Evolution* is such a perfected simulation otherwise, with real, great-looking trucks, you'll keep wishing that your truck will at least dent if it collides with a boulder.

These two games are both the best of their specific classes. *Cro-Mag Rally* is a fun game for families and

kids, and *4x4 Evolution* is perfect for simulation and truck driving enthusiasts. Virtual mud has never felt so good.

— Zack Stern



rating ★★★★★

Cro-Mag
\$40
Pangea Software
512-266-9991
www.pangeasoft.net

rating ★★★★★

4x4 Evolution
\$40
Gathering of Developers
www.godgames.com

Fitting Into an iBook

Live comfortably within the confines of a small display

The iBook is a wonderful computer: it's sleek, sturdy and fast. The only blemish on the clamshelled beauty is its rather small display. The iBook's maximum resolution is 800x600, whereas the standard resolution on all other current Macintoshes is a far more robust 1024x768.

This means that the iBook displays 45% less information than every other Macintosh. Thankfully, there are several ways owners can maximize screen real estate in the iBook's cramped display.

Tidy Your Desktop

There's plenty you can do to squeeze more out of your Finder desktop. One of the simplest tasks is to alter the size of the font used for icon names. In the Apple Menu, open the Appearance Control Panel from the Control Panels heading, and then click on the Fonts tab. The third item listed is Views Font. Select 9 from the pop-up menu to the right to reduce the size of your icons' fonts.

As long as you have the Appearance Control Panel open, try changing the size of your System Font. The System Font is the typeface used in menus and window headers throughout the Mac OS. The default System Font for Mac OS 9 is Charcoal, and it's a fairly wide typeface. To save space, select Techno from the Large System Font pop-up menu. Techno is much narrower than Charcoal and allows you to view 20% more text in the same area.

Another way to conserve space is to adjust the size of the icons displayed on the desktop. Click anywhere on the desktop background image to deselect all icons. Now, choose "View Options..." from the View menu. A window appears, offering viewing options for the Desktop. Click the radio button next the third item listed, called "Keep arranged", and select "by kind" from the pop-up menu. Now, if you look downward, you'll see two different sized icons. Click the radio button near the smaller one to reduce the size of your desktop icons. Now, all items will be neatly listed at the right side of the Finder.

By Chris McVeigh

Retool your Applications

Many modern applications such as Microsoft Word and Macromedia Freehand are replete with toolbars. This minimizes the space left for the actual document window. Thankfully, you can remove toolbars in most applications and create floating tool palettes. To accomplish this in Word or Excel, for example, simply grab the tab at the left end of a toolbar and drag it downwards. Watch for the highlighted rectangle to change its shape, and release the mouse button. A floating tool palette appears. Also keep in mind that you can close tool palettes you don't actively need in order to free up additional space.

Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator pose another challenge. Launch your browser and reduce the size of the open window by dragging the resize control in the lower left. Now, carefully click on the window border towards the lower right (but not the resize control). Now, push the window up and to the left until the left border disappears offscreen and the entire window header is hidden underneath the Mac OS's main menu bar. Next, grab the resize control once again and expand the window down and to the right, until the right and bottom window borders disappear off screen. Those of you using Internet Explorer 5 can gain addition space by collapsing the toolbars (command-B) and navigating with the Favorites menu. **MHJ**



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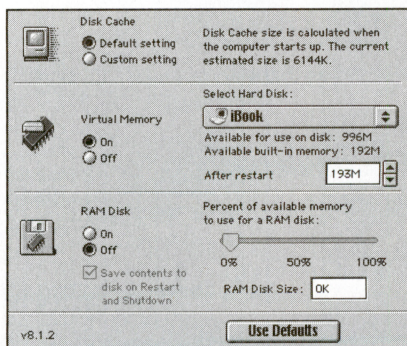
Corral RAM Hogs, Adapt Old Devices, and Get Stereo

Q I use a Power Macintosh G4 with Mac OS 9.0.4. I've been having problems printing from PhotoShop — the computer tells me there is not enough memory to print. Now, I printed just fine with Mac OS 8.6 and the same amount of RAM. The "About This Computer" window tells me that the Mac OS is gobbling up 50MB — way more than it required under Mac OS 8.6! What can I do to get my Macintosh to print again?

— Herb Epstein

A Mac OS 9 is undoubtedly a memory hog. The thrifty solution employs a technology called Virtual Memory to "pretend" your Macintosh has extra RAM. Open the Memory control panel. Virtual Memory is the second item listed. Click the radio button to turn on the feature (if it's not already on). Now, using the arrows to the right, bump up the total amount of RAM by approximately 32MB

By Chris McVeigh



more than the figure listed for "Available built-in memory." Now restart

your Power Macintosh and print your image.

Virtual Memory should be considered an interim solution, however. It can cause QuickTime playback problems, and you might notice that your system significantly slows down at times. The best solution is to buy more RAM — at least 64MB, if not 128MB. Real RAM offers a permanent fix to your problem.

Q I'm planning on purchasing a G4 Cube and new monitor. I currently have two SCSI devices (a Zip drive and Epson scanner) and a HP LaserJet connected with a standard serial cable. How can I connect these items to the Cube?

— Monica O'Hara

A The Power Macintosh G4 Cube supports neither SCSI or serial connections, so you'll have to purchase adapters to hook up your older devices. Keyspan makes the Twin Serial Adapter (\$79), a rather thrifty USB adapter that lets you hook up two older serial devices, such as printers and digital cameras. An alternative solution for many printers is the AsanteTalk LocalTalk/Ethernet adapter (\$99, www.asante.com), a device that connects to the Cube's Ethernet port instead of taking up a USB port. The SCSI devices are probably best served by the Orange Converter FireWire-SCSI adapter (\$99, www.orangemicro.com), which offers faster transfer speeds than USB-SCSI adapters.

Q My daughter has an iMac SE with 128MB RAM. It shipped with Mac OS 9.0.4 and AppleWorks 6.0. Recently, AppleWorks seems to be experiencing bizarre slowdowns that even affect keyboard input. SimpleText has no such problems. We've tried increasing the keyboard repeat rate using the Keyboard control panel, but it has had no effect in AppleWorks. So it so appears that we have a software problem. I can't figure out how to install AppleWorks from scratch from the iMac Software Install or Software Restore disks. Can you help?

—Pat and Kathy Ahearn

A Several things may be at work with this issue. The first possible problem may be that the AppleWorks preferences file has become corrupt. There's an easy fix, however. Dig into your System Folder, locate the Preferences folder and open it. Select List from the View menu to organize the preferences files alphabetically. Now, find the AppleWorks Preferences folder and drag it to the Trash. Restart AppleWorks and give it a whirl to determine whether or not the problem has been fixed.

Should the problem persist, some part of the AppleWorks software may have become corrupt. You'll need to drag your AppleWorks folder to the Trash (be sure to remove any personal files first), and pop the iMac Software Install CD into your computer. Now, locate the Applications folder on the CD. Inside, you'll find an AppleWorks folder, and within it, the Apple-

Works Installer. Open the Installer icon to put a fresh new copy of AppleWorks onto your iMac. Launch AppleWorks again to see if the problem lingers.

In the rare case that the keyboard slowdown is still plaguing your iMac, your System Software may be the culprit. This time, choose the iMac Software Restore CD, slide it into the computer, and restart your Macintosh. Hold down the C key to force the computer to boot with the Software Restore CD. Once the Finder appears, double-click the Apple Software Restore icon. A window will appear giving you a variety of installation options. Select "Restore, Saving Original Items" to install a fresh set of system software. (Any existing items on your hard drive, including your personal files, are moved to a folder called "Original Items.") Restart your computer and give AppleWorks one more try. Hopefully, you'll be all set this time round.

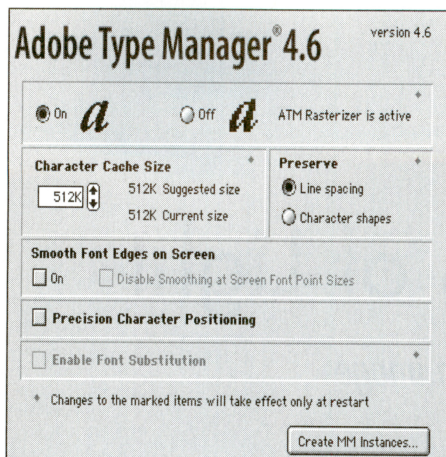
Q I own a Power Macintosh G3 and I've been thinking of connecting stereo speakers to the computer. I have two Bose speakers nearby, connected to my receiver. Is it possible to wire these speakers to the Power Macintosh?

— Steve Stewart

A Unfortunately, it's not possible to connect your Bose speakers directly to your Macintosh. Although a simple adapter would allow the two speakers to be hooked to the computer, the lack of an amplifier would make the sound output barely audible. The volume level is suitable for headphones, but not much else.

You can find a simple Y-Adapter at your local RadioShack that splits the stereo signal from the headphone jack into two standard RCA jacks. Now, if you like, you could route the audio from the computer into your receiver's audio inputs. The receiver will automatically amplify the signal and route your Mac's audio to the Bose speakers. **MHJ**

Q I recently purchased an HP DeskJet 932C and was disappointed to learn it wasn't PostScript compatible. This is not a problem when trying to print photos. Unfortunately, EPS logos



created in Adobe Illustrator print as jagged, pixilated images. I am also nervous about using PostScript fonts with the printer, but I haven't seen any problems yet. Do you have any suggestions for printing EPS logos to the DeskJet, other than converting the graphics to very large Adobe Photoshop files?

— Sue Impey

A In order to avoid jagged images and fonts when you are printing to a non-PostScript printer, you must

install two pieces of software. The first is Adobe Type Manager Light 4.6.1, currently available for free from Adobe at www.adobe.com/support/downloads/atmmac.htm. This software ensures that all installed PostScript (Type 1) fonts print correctly. Now, to help out with EPS files, you'll need PostScript interpreter software, such as Adobe PressReady (\$249, www.adobe.com). This clever software converts PostScript data into information your non-PostScript printer can understand. **MHJ**

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Reflections of Light

How a scanner captures an image

Scanning an image has become almost as easy as photocopying. Press a button on the computer (or even the scanner), and within a few moments, the image appears on your display, ready for you to crop, rotate, or mutate as you like. Here's a look at how it all happens.

Assembling a Scanner

A modern flatbed scanner consists of two basic components: the scanning assembly, which includes a fluorescent tube and a thin row of densely packed charge-coupled devices (CCDs); and the motor assembly, which includes a small electric motor and a pulley system that slowly advances the scanning assembly. These components lay under a glass window, contained inside what is typically a plastic case. A lid prevents ambient light from entering the scanner during a scan so that the CCDs record information equally.

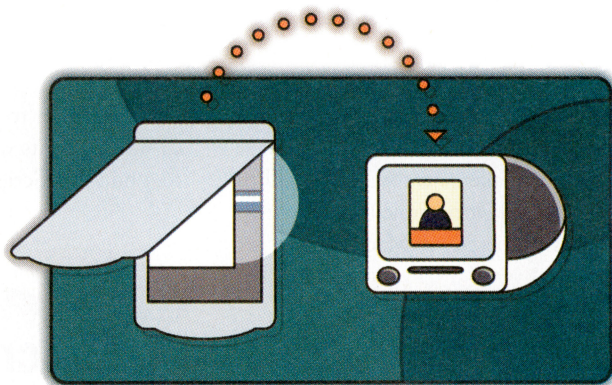
Now let's take a closer look at the scanning assembly, where your image is recorded. A CCD detects light intensity and reg-

By **Chris McVeigh**

isters it as an electrical charge. The scanning assembly contains a single

row of densely packed CCDs, stretching from one side of the scanner to the other. The more tightly packed the row of CCDs, the higher the effective resolution of the scanner. Color is detected through a filtering process that allows each CCD to see only one spectrum — red, green or blue — at a time. The color data is later combined to determine a specific color value for that point of light.

Scanning occurs one line at a time. The fluorescent tube illuminates the image from below, and its light reflects off the image and back into the fine row of CCDs. Each CCD registers the specific intensity of light at its location. The scanner then collects the information from left to right, converting the electrically stored image data into a digital format. The information is then sent off to the computer via its USB connection, and the motor advances the scanning assembly one small step. The process then begins again. Of course, this all happens very quickly; to the outside observer it appears to be one continuous process.



Assembling a Scan

Once the data arrives at the computer, it is stitched together line by line. Each single block of color detected by the scanner becomes a pixel, and together, the multitude of pixels form the scanned image.

Scanners are available in three formats, each offering increasing image quality. A standard 24-bit scanner detects 256 (8-bit) different intensities of light per color. Alternatively, a 30-bit scanner detects 1024 (10-bit) levels of light per color, while a 36-bit scanner senses up to 4096 (12-bit) different levels. Oddly enough, the highest color depth your Macintosh can display is 24-bit color, so getting a scanner with a greater bit depth may seem superfluous. Graphics professionals opt for the most capable scanners, however, due to their ability to detect subtle variances in darker images. Although the image data is converted to 24-bit color when it arrives at their Macintosh, the resulting image quality when printed is significantly better than it would be had they used a standard 24-bit scanner. **MHJ**

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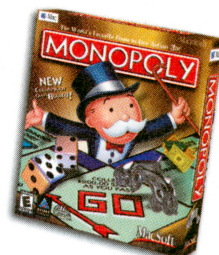
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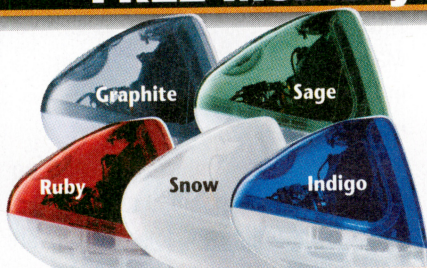
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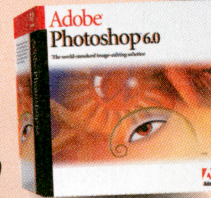


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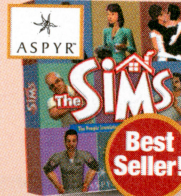
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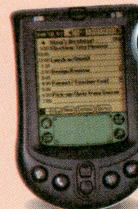
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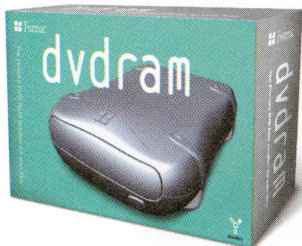
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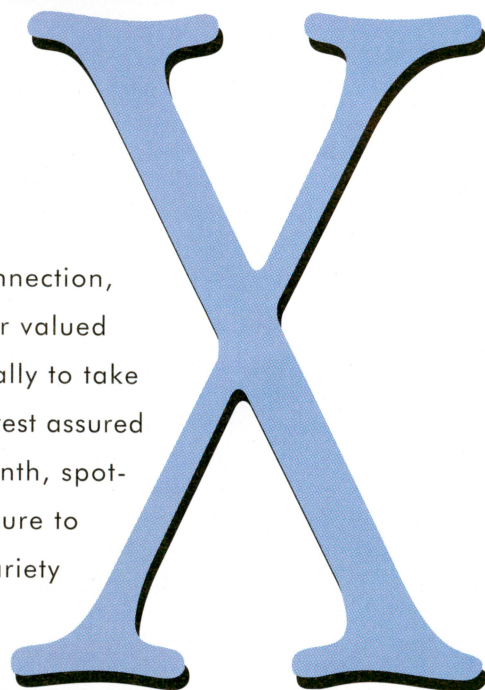


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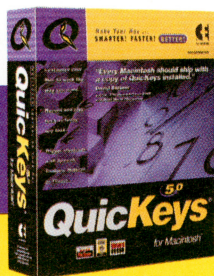
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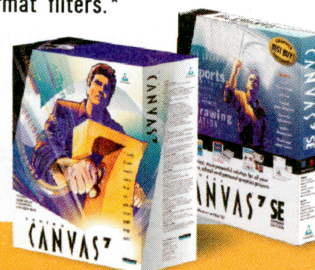
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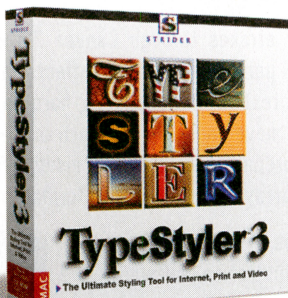
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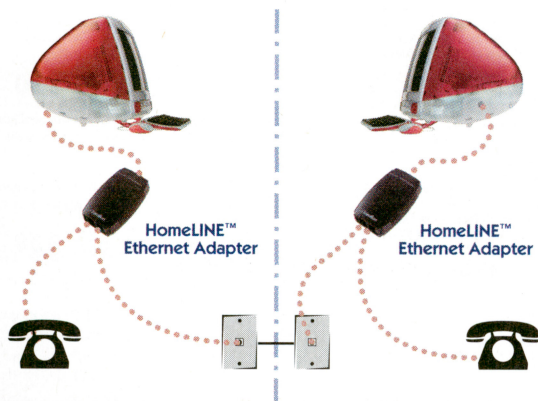
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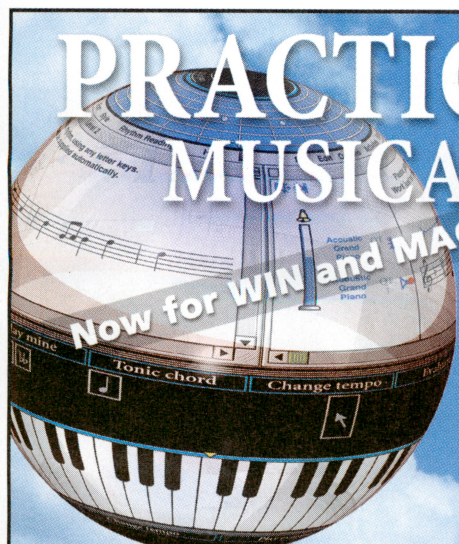
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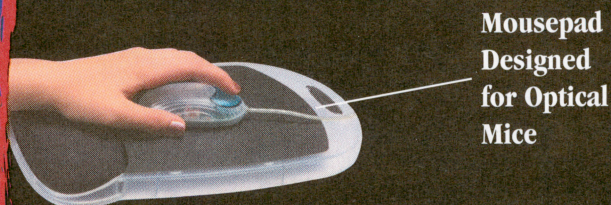
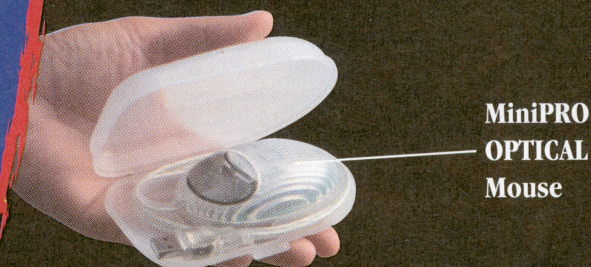
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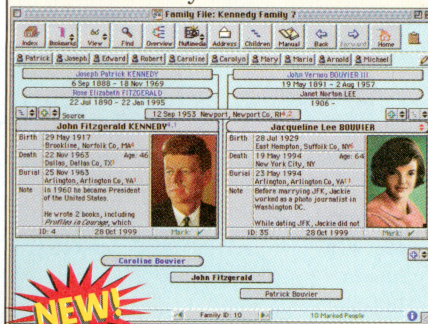


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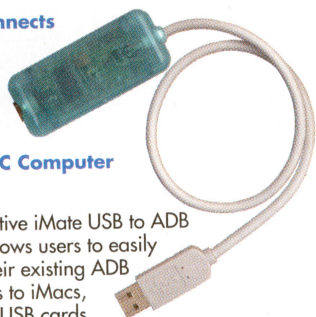
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The Poor Man's Portable

With a Palm Computer, Create a Simple Rig that May Best Your Laptop

I hate to admit it, but buying a portable Mac doesn't make sense for everyone. Even with the availability of value-priced iBooks, it may be hard to justify shelling-out additional clams for the convenience of portability when your existing desktop Mac does everything you need.

If you've been debating about whether to spring for a new iBook or PowerBook, here's a third option that just might do the trick, and save you a few thousand dollars to boot.

Palm Power

If you've already got a Palm III, V, or VII, you're in luck. For an additional \$100 investment, you can purchase a hot little gadget called the Palm Portable Keyboard, and turn your beloved Palm into what I affectionately call the Poor Man's Portable, or "PMP." Of course, if you don't already

By Alan S. Golub

own a Palm, building a PMP from scratch will run you another few hundred dollars, but that's still at least \$1,000 shy of the cost of a new iBook. Interested? Read on!

Here's how it works. The Palm Portable Keyboard is a sleek, sexy, black keyboard that folds down, Jetsons-style, to the approximate size of the Palm computer itself. With the push of a button on the side of the casing, the keyboard unfolds like a giant "W" until you lay it flat on a solid surface. Once opened, the keyboard looks broken — jagged crevices split the keyboard into three sections spaced too far apart for normal typing. Fear not. Grasp the thin handles at the sides of the keyboard, and gently slide them towards the center until all three sections snap together with a satisfying "click." The crevices are gone, and the three sections are seamlessly fused to form a gorgeous, full-size keyboard that's ready for action.

At the top of the keyboard is a fold-out shelf on which you'll connect and rest your Palm computer. Before doing this, you'll need to install the included keyboard software on your Palm via a Hot Sync operation. With the software installed, simply slide your Palm into the connector at the

base of the shelf. Once connected, your Palm automatically turns on, ready for you to begin typing in any application that accepts numbers or text, including memos, e-mail, contact information, and scheduling. When you're through, turn off your Palm, slide it off the fold-out shelf, fold up your keyboard, and slip it into your pocket. The next time you Hot Sync your Palm with your desktop, all of the entries made with your keyboard will be transferred to your desktop computer automatically.

Swank Style

Aside from saving you money, the Poor Man's Portable will make you look incredibly cool. Sure, there's a drool factor at work whenever someone shows up at a meeting with an iBook or a PowerBook, but trust me — you haven't seen real gadget-envy until you've watched your co-workers ogle a Palm Portable Keyboard in action.

So what's the downside? Well, for all its grace and charm, the PMP isn't even close to being a full-fledged laptop. This means more today than it used to, as portable computers increasingly attain "desktop replacement" status. Another potential downside is the quality of the display on your Palm. Although folks blessed with the bright color display of a Palm IIIc will likely have no problems, users with monochrome Palm computers may have a hard time working on a PMP for any extended length of time.

You won't be able to run Adobe Photoshop or watch James Bond on DVD, but if you primarily need a laptop for occasional light data entry, a PMP may be the perfect compliment to your desktop Mac. And who needs to watch Bond if you can live it? (Missile-launching function sold separately.) **MHJ**

Medicine For Your Mac



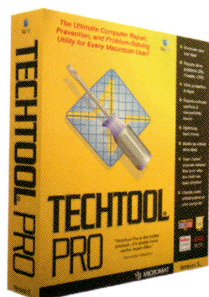
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you to see the inner configuration of your memory without needing to open the case.

Do all these features make TechTool Pro complicated to use? Not at all. The MultiTester feature allows you to give your computer a full checkup with one click of your mouse. TechTool Pro even creates graphic, easy-to-read and understand reports. Now you can know the state of your computer without having a degree in computer science.

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